THE TIMES

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MONDAY

THE TIMES FOR ONLY 10p EVERY SUMMER MONDAY

BA draws up emergency plans to beat strike by air crews

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS was yesterday drawing up emergency plans to keep its 300 aircraft in the air this summer after most of its pilots said they would go ahead with a pay strike from July 16.

Senior BA executives gathered at a hastily arranged board meeting to discuss the crisis as the British Airline Pilots' Association (Balpa) gave the airline until then to come up with a new offer. A walkout by more than 3,000 BA pilots and first officers, the first since BA was privatised in 1987, could cost the company up to £40 million a day.

Balpa leaders said there was a "deep sense of anger and frustration" among BA air crews over the company's refusal to meet its pay demands and gave a warning that the strike would last "as long as it is necessary". Chris Darke, the union's general secretary, predicted that BA would come to a "virtual stop" when the strike began at 4am on July 16.

A BA spokesman said that, while the airline still hoped to settle the dispute, it had to move quickly to protect passengers. "A strike would be regrettable, in no one's interest and would achieve nothing. Our main concern is with passengers, and we will do all we can to minimise disruption."

Although he refused to give details of BA's contingency plans, they are likely to involve more intensive use of its 600 non-union pilots. The spokesman did not rule out hiring non-company pilots to fly BA's planes.

He reassured passengers, however, that there would be no compromise on safety. "Flying planes is a pretty technical, professional and expert job, that's why we employ pilots who are the best in the business," he said.

BA normally carries about 100,000 passengers a day, and the strike could spell financial disaster for the company, which is known as the world's most profitable airline. BA said it would try to rebook passengers on other airlines if it was unable to provide BA seats. If rebooking were not possible, refunds would be paid.

A spokesman for BA Holidays, the airline's tour operator, which caters for 15,000 passengers in July and August, said its customers would be transferred to other carriers wherever possible. People getting married or on honeymoon would be given priority. The spokesman added that passengers could cancel their holidays without cost up to July 31, and passengers who were delayed while away would have their costs paid.

The dispute is over differences in pay levels between Heathrow pilots and about 300 relatively poorly paid flight crew based at Gatwick. BA pilots, co-pilots and engineers earn an average of £50,000 a year, but Balpa maintains that some flight crew at Gatwick earned as little as £18,000. The union has rejected an offer of 9 per cent for low-paid pilots at Gatwick on top of the basic 3.6 cent agreed by other unions in the airline.

Mr Darke said the union was "deeply sorry" for threatening the strike, but blamed BA for the disruption it would cause. "They just don't seem to know how seriously our members feel about this," he said.

Flying the flag, page 41

Carey's moral crusade upsets schools

BY ALICE THOMSON AND JOHN O'LEARY

THE Archbishop of Canterbury clashed with teachers last night after launching a crusade to stop the moral and spiritual decline of the nation.

Dr George Carey attacked the tendency to view morality as a matter of taste, and complained that God was being banished to the realm of the private hobby. Children needed to be shown the difference between right and wrong, he said, and spiritual teaching should not be an "add-on extra" to the curriculum.

The Archbishop was supported by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, who said it was vital to heed Dr Carey's warning that Britain was squandering its religious inheritance. "There can be no greater influence for society's good than giving young people an unequivocal moral framework," he said.

But teachers rejected the Archbishop's comments as showing a fundamental misunderstanding of what they were doing. They said schools did a superb job teaching moral values, but their efforts were hampered by other influences — from parents to the Royal Family.

Dr Carey made his remarks in a House of Lords debate on Britain's moral and spiritual wellbeing. He said he wanted to spread his moral message across the country and called for a partnership between parents, schools, the churches and the Government in bringing about a return to the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Jesus. Children should be given a set of rules for life, as in football, he said.

The Archbishop warned the Government against an education policy that produced only robots for the marketplace, adding: "It would be a failure if our schools were to produce people with the right skills and aptitudes to take on our economic competitors, but who cannot string two sentences together about the meaning and purpose of life or who have no idea what it means to be a good citizen and a moral person."

Senior peers on all sides supported Dr Carey, blaming progressive teaching methods, single-parent families, a dependency culture and a growing materialism for the perceived moral decline. The former Chief Rabbi Lord Jakobovits said: "If our children are raised in a moral vacuum, then an essential ingredient of our civilisation will progressively disappear with incalculable consequences to the stability of our society."

But teachers immediately attacked the Archbishop. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said his comments showed a "fundamental misunderstanding of the work going on in schools to ensure that pupils behave properly and understand the difference between right and wrong. I know of no school that operates a pick-and-mix agenda when it comes to moral behaviour." But he added: "An increasing number of parents do not appear to think it matters unduly whether their children lie or commit criminal offences or engage in antisocial behaviour."

John Dunford, president of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "Schools are oases of morality amidst competing pressures on young people." And Nigel de Gruchy of the National Association of School Masters and Union of Women Teachers said: "Teachers already do far too much preaching: they have to because everyone else has given up. What is needed is a better example from the leaders of society. From the Royal Family downwards, they all proclaim moral principles and then do their own thing."

The Archbishop was supported, however, by Dr Nick Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, who said: "What we need is a clear framework; a widely acknowledged set of moral values."

Lords debate, pages 8 and 9

JULIAN HERBERT



A gondola provided an unusual form of transport on the Thames at Henley during the Royal Regatta yesterday as earlier rain eased off

Rain clouds sporting events

BY JOANNA BALE

AS RAIN disrupted play at Wimbledon again yesterday, plans were being drawn up for it to over-run into Tuesday for the first time since 1927.

Umpires, staff and caterers were put on standby to work extra days as the London Weather Centre predicted more rain at the weekend. The tournament was last extended in 1992 when the men's final was held on a Monday.

Conditions at Henley Royal Regatta eased yesterday, producing a series of nail-biting contests.

The rain was partly blamed for the lowest number of spectators at Wimbledon in six years. But Christopher Gorringe, chief executive, said: "The fact that attendances are only 4.5 per cent down on near-record levels of last year is heartening, considering the weather and two Tube strikes."

Henley, page 49
Wimbledon, pages 50-52

Kuwaiti apostate 'must die'

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A KUWAITI Islamic court has, in effect, sentenced a businessman to death for converting from Islam to Christianity, five years after Christian soldiers rescued Kuwait from the clutches of Saddam Hussein.

Robert Hussein, 44, has been forced to go into hiding after the court ruled that he is an apostate — A Muslim who has left the faith — and Islamic lawyers pronounced that "whoever changes his religion should be killed".

Kuwait has civil as well as Islamic courts and although the constitution guarantees religious freedom, British legal experts acting on Mr Hussein's behalf fear the Kuwaiti Government will merely stand back and allow the Islamic ruling to prevail.

Muslim preachers have issued death threats against Mr Hussein from mosque pulpits, and he fears for his life. Islamic fundamentalists have been encouraged to seek out and kill him in the same way that they have been urged to kill Salman Rushdie after the Iranian fatwa issued by Ayatollah Khomeini.

The traditional method of death for those pronounced guilty of apostasy is by the sword, though he is more likely to be the target of gun attacks, London sources said yesterday. "It is only a matter of time before someone gets him," a Christian Solidarity International member said.

Members of Walton Baptist Church in Walton-on-Thames in Surrey have campaigned on Mr Hussein's behalf. Stephen Makepeace, a congregation member, has written to British MPs, saying: "Many members of our church have been horrified and outraged to find that a country which their sons and friends were sent to liberate at the risk of their own 'Christian' lives is now persecuting people for turning to God in Jesus' name."

Mr Hussein has been forced to move from safe house to safe house in Kuwait, his wife has been abducted and raped and forced by her family to leave him, he is forbidden to see his two children, and his building business is in ruins.

Paradoxically, he converted because he was such an assiduous reader of the Koran. He abided by a section in Islam's holy book extolling the virtues of some parts of the Bible and

Continued on page 2, col 5

Leading article, page 23

Princess studies divorce papers

The Princess of Wales will spend the weekend poring over a suitcase of papers offering her a divorce.

Anthony Julius, the solicitor acting for her, went to Kensington Palace to present her with the fine print of the Prince of Wales's detailed proposals for a financial settlement. An early response is thought unlikely because of the complexity of the offer, which has been suggested to be worth between £15 million and £20 million.....Page 5

Hunt for casket sale suspects

The London art market was speculating about who was to blame for the fate of the St Thomas à Becket chasse after attempts to make it safe with a pre-auction purchase failed.

Suspects included Dr Robert Anderson, director of the British Museum, Dr Alan Borg, director of the V&A, and Lord Rothschild, who is director of the National Heritage Lottery and Memorial Funds.....Pages 2, 23

Women-first roadside rescues are 'illegal'

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

BREAKDOWN organisations were warned yesterday that they could be breaking the law if they give priority to rescuing lone or pregnant women.

The Equal Opportunities Commission complained to Britannia Rescue after it issued a leaflet advertising a service that put vulnerable women at the top of the queue for assistance. The commission said that it was unfair and possibly illegal to give women preference over men.

Motoring organisations were astonished at the ruling. The plight of lone women drivers in trouble with their cars has become an important target for them. The RAC has even marketed panic buttons, emphasising their usefulness for women who fear they are about to be molested or attacked.

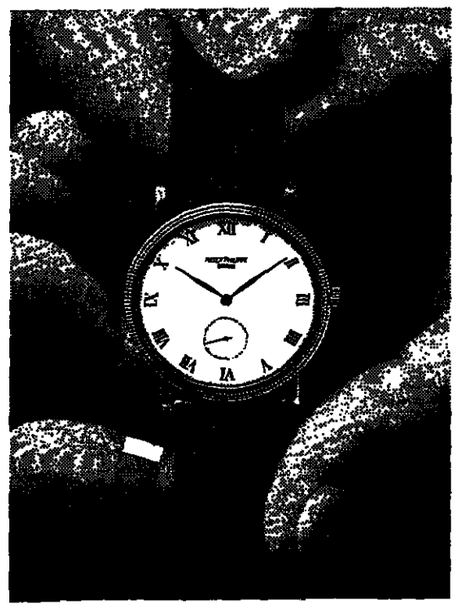
A spokeswoman for Britannia said: "This is taking political correctness a bit too far. We don't think giving vulnerable women preference is discriminatory ... and I am sure most men would not mind if they thought their wives or daughters were being looked after."

The RAC, which has also been cautioned by the commission for running women-only maintenance classes, said it would not back down over its priority system. "We defend our right to give women priority for their safety and the police agree with us," a spokesman said.

However, the commission was firm that the Sex Discrimination Act made it unlawful to offer a better service to one sex over another. A spokeswoman said: "A man could sue if he could prove he had suffered from this policy. We know it is a sensitive issue and we have tried to take this into account."

The AA said it tried to judge each case on merit. "We will look at anyone who feels vulnerable," a spokesman said.

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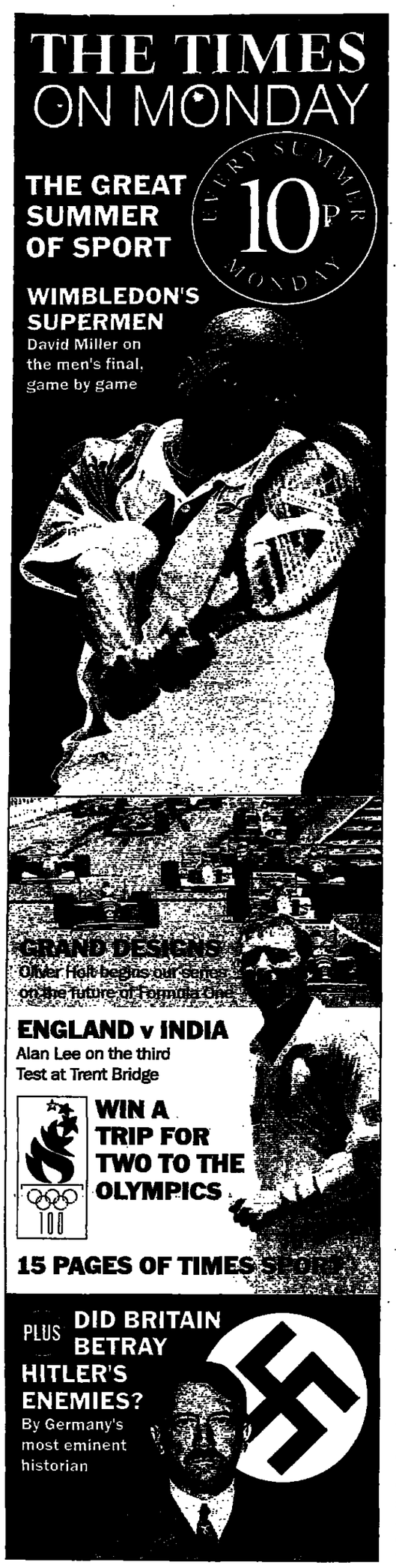
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Major accuses Blair over 'grubby' Scotland policy

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

IN AN attempt to show solidarity with Scotland's hard-pressed beef farmers, the Prime Minister made a diplomatic purchase of sirloin steak yesterday. But it was Norma, his wife, who ended up paying the price of the photo-opportunity. Mr Major, on a short walkabout in Dalbeattie, disappeared into a butcher's shop, cameramen in tow. After chatting to staff, Mr Major, who is partial to steak and chips, chose a 3lb 8oz quality Scottish sirloin for £16.96. But when it came to paying, he looked imploringly at his wife. Mrs Major produced a £20 note.

JOHN MAJOR accused Tony Blair yesterday of "grubbing around for votes" with Labour's plans for a Scottish parliament and gave a warning that the move would cost thousands of jobs.

In the first appearance by a Prime Minister at the Scottish Grand Committee, Mr Major made an impassioned plea to Scottish voters to reject plans for a tax-raising parliament.

He seized on yesterday's announcement that a thousand jobs will be created in Lanarkshire by a Taiwanese company, claiming that such investment would be destroyed by devolution.

The town's £40 million investment by Lite-On Technology Corporation, the world's fifth largest computer monitor manufacturer, was the result of the low taxes in Britain, Mr Major said. "What I can see beyond any doubt is that inward investment would not be here if you have an extra layer of bureaucracy and an extra layer of decisions here in Scotland. Why would they come to Scotland if their workers were more highly taxed and therefore they would have to pay higher wages?"

The Prime Minister's claim that jobs would be destroyed were dismissed by George Robertson, Labour's Shadow Scottish Secretary, who argued that overseas companies were aware of the likelihood of a Scottish parliament and were not deterred from investing in Scotland.

Mr Major faced dozens of pro-devolution MPs during a meeting of the Scottish Grand Committee in Dumfries. It is the first time since the committee was formed in 1957 that a Prime Minister has given evidence and follows last year's decision by the Government to allow the committee to question senior Cabinet ministers at various venues around Scotland.

Using some of his most passionate language on the issue of devolution, Mr Major said that the union and the United Kingdom was a birthright beyond value. *It* should not be diminished by people grubbing around for votes.

Most of the 72 Labour MPs were present in the huge Easterbrook Hall. Mr Major was constantly interrupted by Labour, and Scottish Nationalist and Liberal Democrat MPs and was heckled from the public gallery.

Several MPs were dismissive of Mr Major's announcement this week that the Stone of Scone will be returned to Scotland. Mr Robertson said: "We are going to be bought off by symbols of ancient power. We want the power to control our own domestic powers within the UK and we won't settle for anything less."

Knives out for culprit in auction of Becket casket

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE search was on yesterday for someone to blame for the fate of the St Thomas à Becket chasse, sold to an unknown private collector.

The art market put a parade of figures in the dock. They included Dr Robert Anderson, director of the British Museum, Dr Alan Borg, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, and Lord Rothschild, director of the National Heritage lottery and memorial funds.

Their attempts to secure the 12th-century Limoges casket for the nation with a pre-auction purchase failed when it was knocked down for £4.18 million on Thursday.

Also in the dock yesterday was Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary. Her telephone call and letter to Sotheby's, telling them that their export licence was to be varied so that the casket could not be exported without an application to her, arrived minutes after the piece had been sold.

Heritage enthusiasts asked why she had not acted earlier. "The timing was deliberate," her spokesman said. "Earlier intervention would have affected the sale price, but that would have been unfair to the vendor."

Sam Fogg, the manuscripts dealer who represented the buyer at the sale, refused to disclose his client. He is known to have acted previously for the Getty Museum, which was unable to purchase Canova's statue *The Three Graces* after a national outcry.

The London art world remains convinced, however, that the chasse was bought by David Thomson, or his father, Lord Thomson of Fleet, chairman of the Thomson Corporation and a former proprietor of *The Times*. Both attended the sale, but they did not bid in person.

Mr Fogg also bid successfully for a Romanesque gilt bronze candlestick base, which went for £4.4 million. Sotheby's said yesterday that he had been acting on behalf of two different purchasers.

Not very different, informed sources in the art world think. They favour the theory that Mr Thomson bought the Becket casket and his father the candlestick base, or possibly the other way around.

Mr Fogg, known to have represented Mr Thomson previously, denied that he was acting for either Thomson, but the millionaires could have been buying through family trusts or companies.

Both men are magpie collectors, though David's eye is said to be more eclectic, international and discriminating than his father's.

Lord Thomson started collecting avidly in the 1960s. As a beginner he bought things that he considered bargains, but his tastes became sophisticated after he befriended the London dealer Herman Baer. David Thomson is renowned in the art world for having both a natural eye and a retentive memory.

Letters, page 23



Robert Hussein who converted to Christianity

Kuwaiti 'must die'

Continued from page 1

urging people to read it. Kuwait's constitution guarantees "absolute freedom" of religion, but Islamic lawyers there insisted on trying him in a Shi'ite court for apostasy, a serious crime under Sharia Islamic law. Mr Hussein was sentenced on June 9 and given 28 days to appeal. After a deluge of protests, including thousands from Christians in Britain to the Kuwaiti Ambassador in London, he was given leave this week to appeal to a civil court, which will hear his case in September.

In the Islamic court appearance, lasting less than a minute, Mr Hussein was declared an official apostate from Islam. He was not allowed to speak, was automatically divorced from his wife, legally forbidden to see his children, and stripped of his civil rights. He cannot use his passport.

After Muslim leaders called for his blood for "insulting Islam", Mr Hussein's house was ransacked.

Franklin Evans, a British lawyer who visited Mr Hussein in hiding last week, said: "He looked clinically depressed to me, smoking continually. He has lost weight. He is devastated because his children have been taken from him."

A Kuwaiti government spokesman denied Mr Hussein had reason to fear for his life, but said: "If he is touched or harmed those who touch or harm him would be taken and punished."

Leading article, page 23

NEWS IN BRIEF

Anthrax confirmed on Wiltshire farm

Anthrax, the virulent bacterial disease, has been confirmed in two cows on a farm near Westbury, Wiltshire, the Ministry of Agriculture disclosed yesterday. The farm, which has not been identified, is three miles downstream from a disused tannery where local people say infected hides were buried more than 30 years ago. The site has been earmarked for a housing development. "It is thought that the farmer may have brought anthrax spores to the surface while digging a field close to the river bank," a Ministry spokesman said. "Spores can stay active in the soil for many years."

£67,000 fishing fine

Hallfend, Spanish owner of the trawler *Mount Eden*, was banned from fishing for four months and fined £67,500, with £2,000 costs, for breaking fish conservation rules. It admitted grossly over-fishing its quota of monkfish and megrim. Exeter Crown Court was told that the trawler was stopped twice last September and found on each occasion to have exceeded its entire monthly quota.

Drink-drive cheats jailed

A doctor was jailed yesterday for issuing a bogus blood-sample certificate to try to help an old friend escape a drink-drive charge. Dr Godfrey Lutaya, 48, a former RAF pathologist, of Wandsworth, south-west London, was sentenced to three months for trying to pervert the course of justice. The man he helped, Ricky Ssendagire, 49, a biochemist from Wembley, was also jailed for three months.

'Bible John' suspect

The man police believed to be "Bible John", the Scottish serial killer, has been comprehensively cleared of murder. Strathclyde police exhumed the body of John Irvine McInnes on February 1. McInnes, who committed suicide in 1980 aged 41, was the prime suspect in the murder of three women in Glasgow in the 1960s. However, DNA tests and teeth marks have failed to link him to the killings.

'Gunman' imprisoned

A man who threatened to shoot a shopkeeper with a plastic toy gun from his computer game system was jailed for two years at the Old Bailey yesterday. Victor Collins, 31, went home to get his black laser pistol gun after being told he could not use the telephone in Jays grocery shop in Abbott Road, Poplar, east London. He had previous convictions for robbery with an imitation firearm.

Gulf War broker cleared

A shipping broker was cleared of swindling the Ministry of Defence out of nearly £2 million during the Gulf War. William Layzell-Smith, 58, a director with brokers John Good and Sons (London), was accused of hiding the true cost of hiring roll-on, roll-off ferries while British forces risked their lives. Southwark Crown Court acquitted him of fraudulent trading between October 1990 and July 1991.

Fire claim fraudulent

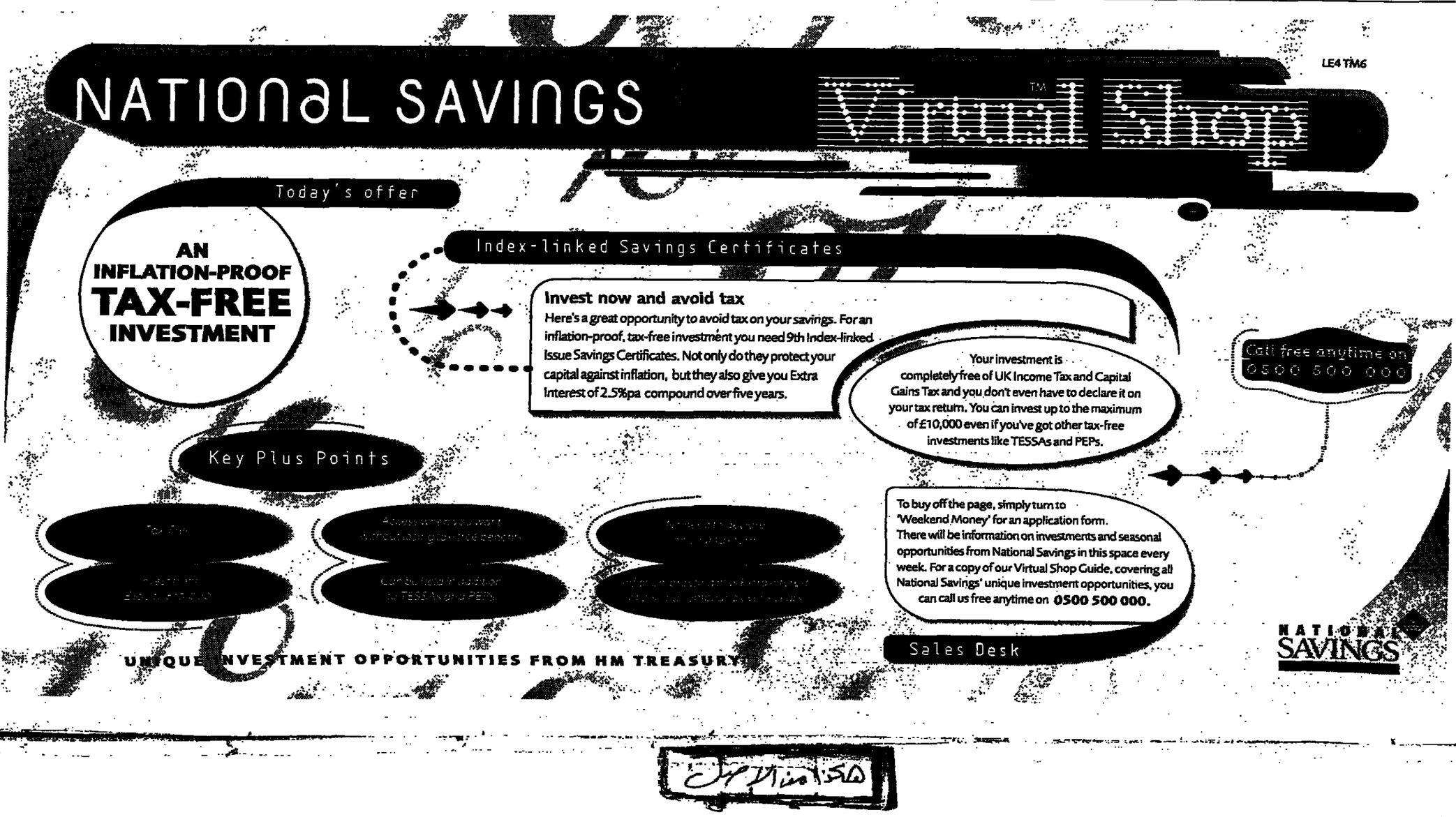
The directors of what was once Guernsey's premier hotel were ordered yesterday to repay more than £1 million to their insurers after a judge ruled that a claim after three suspicious fires was fraudulent. The sum, plus costs, was awarded to The Royal Insurance company, of Liverpool, at the High Court, against the Royal Hotel. It has stood empty for four years, since the last fire.

Lack of Cruise control

The arrival of one of the world's largest warships at Dublin has appalled residents fighting to keep Ireland neutral but delighted Irish women in search of their own version of Tom Cruise. Thousands are flocking to see the 5,000 crew of the aircraft carrier *USS John F Kennedy* this weekend. Some discos have asked young women to control their behaviour.

Tenors' empty seats

More than 4,000 tickets out of 55,000 for the Three Tenors performance tonight at Wembley Stadium were still unsold yesterday because of the high asking prices of £350, £310, and £160. Cheaper tickets went quickly at £35 to £110. The concert was expected to gross some £7.5 million. Among those in attendance will be the Prime Minister and his wife Norma.



Judge orders wife to rein in her Olympic spending

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A MOTHER who has spent hundreds of thousands of pounds trying further her daughter's Olympic equestrian ambitions was told by a judge yesterday to rein in her indulgent spending. He also gave her some advice on how to economise.

Diane McGeoch, estranged wife of the retail tycoon Lennie McGeoch, had gone to court pleading poverty in an attempt to gain £19,000 from her husband's estate to tide her over until their divorce is finalised next year. She is seeking a final settlement of £8 million plus £15,000 a month.

The Court of Session in Edinburgh was told that Mr McGeoch, 55, a director of the soft furnishing shops Mackays and one of Britain's 50 richest people with a fortune estimated to be £400 million, had been living beyond his means. His wife and three daughters, Laura, Pamela and Julie, who live in Connecticut for most of the year, spent up to £750,000 a year and Mr McGeoch now had to cut back on his daughter's equestrian activities.

Anne Smith, QC, Mrs McGeoch's counsel, said that her client's monthly allowance had been cut from $20,000 (£13,000) a month to $11,000 by her husband after he became involved with another woman. Sixteen-year-old Julie's dreams of Olympic stardom were being jeopardised, she said.

Mrs Smith told Lord Penrose, presiding, that it now cost $287,000 a year for Julie to compete in her sport. Mrs McGeoch had spent $272,500 on four horses for her daughter in one year. They had attended ten major horse trials in America, staying in luxury hotels that cost $10,000 a week. Mr McGeoch had set up an $80,000-a-year trust fund to pay for Julie's horses, but Mrs Smith said that was not enough. Experts believed Julie had Olympic potential.

She said Mr McGeoch had initially encouraged Julie. He had bought 14 horses for his three daughters in 1985/94. "He started Julie on the road and has made a stick for his own back or a crop for his own hide. It is a commitment to which he has bound himself."

William Nimmo Smith, QC, for Mr McGeoch, said his client could no longer afford the equestrian fees. "In any family there could come a time when cuts have to be made, even where past extravagances have raised a child's expectations," he told the court. In 1993 Mr McGeoch had spent $700,000 when he lived with his family in Connecticut before one cent was spent on his daughter's horses. In the same year he spent £450,000 refurbishing the family's Glasgow home.

The family has five houses, including homes in London, Manhattan and Aviemore. When his daughter Laura turned 16 Mr McGeoch gave her a BMW car with stereo and telephone. Mrs McGeoch spent £4,800 a year on beauty treatments, £7,000 on eating out, £9,000 on clothes, and £20,000 on food.

Mr Nimmo Smith said that last year his income was £267,000 but after spending on his family, he had only £30,000 left for his personal use. Mr McGeoch was willing to pay a total of £13,750 a month in aliment for wife and daughter on top of about £64,500 from the trust fund set up for his daughters over 20 years ago.

Lord Penrose awarded a reduced interim sum of £8,000 for Mrs McGeoch and £3,500 for Julie. He said that when they were a family their lifestyle was characterised by self-indulgence and indulgence of their children. He suggested cutbacks. The money could be used more "flexibly" to fund the equestrian activities.

Mrs McGeoch immediately appealed. The full divorce hearing is expected to take place in May next year.

DAVID HOWELLS



Margaret Crump outside Clifton College: said that her P45 arrived less than a fortnight before the new term without a letter of explanation

Timetable alerted teacher to her dismissal

BY DAVID CHARTER

A LEADING independent school yesterday agreed to pay a substantial sum to a teacher who realised she was sacked only when she found her name missing from the timetable.

Margaret Crump said she felt humiliated by her treatment from senior staff at Clifton College, Bristol, where she taught art for 14 years. An industrial tribunal in Bristol heard that Mrs Crump, 46, lost her job after a personality clash with her new head of department. The tribunal accepted Mrs Crump's claims of unfair dismissal and breach of contract after hearing that, at the end of the summer term last year, she found a copy of the teaching rota for autumn 1995 which omitted her name. She was preparing to return after the summer break when, less than a fortnight before the term, her P45 arrived without any explanation.

A settlement, thought to be in excess of £20,000, was agreed before the tribunal reconvened yesterday. An 11-page report said the sacking procedure was "badly flawed". It criticised teachers' evidence as "lacking credibility" and "evasive". No direct mention had been made to Mrs Crump that she was going to lose her job, although she had earlier been sent details of the school's redundncy arrangements.

The tribunal said there was a clear personality clash between Mrs Crump and Jonathan Macfarlane, her head of department. He rejected her for the new post of assistant director of the art department and appointed an acquaintance, bypassing the interview process taken by Mrs Crump.

Mrs Crump said Mr Macfarlane criticised her in front of pupils. "I put up with the way they treated me for months because I loved teaching and I loved the pupils." She added: "There was never any mention of my losing my job and I thought the way I found out was very shabby indeed."

Hugh Monro, the headmaster, said: "It is disappointing that the tribunal found against the school. But in the interests of the pupils and the school, it has been decided not to take the case further."

Mrs Crump now manages a pottery and ceramics shop in Bristol.

Unfaithful lover was knifed and scalded

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A PREGNANT social worker who attacked her unfaithful lover with a hammer, knife and scalding coffee during a five-hour ordeal walked free from court yesterday. Gaynor De-Cordova, 31, was placed on probation for two years after an Old Bailey judge was told that Gerald O'Connell, 48, taunted her with his infidelity and called her Madame Stupid.

De-Cordova invited O'Connell, a businessman, to her flat in August last year to discuss his intention of leaving her for a former girlfriend. When he arrived she made two cups of coffee, poured one over his head and threw a kettle at him, shouting "You are never going to get out of here alive."

She threatened to make sure that he could never have sex again. O'Connell, from Wrabness, Essex, tried to leave but found the door locked and ran into the bathroom. Sean Larkin, for the prosecution, said: "He was hit on the head and on the arm by the water. He felt his skin peeling off. She came at him with the hammer but he locked the bathroom door."

Over the next few hours De-Cordova seemed to calm down periodically, bandaging his wounds and apologising. But she repeatedly flared up again, attacking him with a hammer in one hand while lunging at his groin with a steak knife in the other.



De-Cordova: kept up attack for five hours

He suffered a stab wound to his thigh, burns to the top of his head, a severe 12 in burn to his left arm, a black eye and a bruised cheek.

Vera Baird, representing De-Cordova, said: "She felt cheated and deceived. She did not believe his story that he had just bumped into his former girlfriend. She knew she lived in Paris and he in Essex. She wanted him to explain himself properly and tell her the truth. This is the only time in 31 years this lady has been violent."

Judge Ian Davies told De-Cordova, who admitted causing grievous bodily harm: "You were under intolerable pressure from a number of different sources, you were also pregnant. This offence is so serious it would normally warrant a custodial sentence but the facts are so exceptional I feel able to make a probation order."

Mechanic linked to road rage death car

BY STEWART TENDLER

A CAR mechanic appeared in court yesterday accused of handling a stolen Land Rover Discovery linked to the M25 "road rage" murder.

Terry Hole, 45, of West Kingsdown, Kent, was remanded in custody for three days by Dartford magistrates accused of handling a Discovery stolen in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, in February 1995.

Mr Hole is alleged to have sold a Discovery registered as L794 JTF to a man called Anthony Francis.

Police investigating the stabbing of Stephen Cameron on the M25 want to trace a Discovery with that index number and the owner, registered as Anthony Francis.

They also want to question Kenneth Noye, who was cleared of murdering an undercover policeman at his house in West Kingsdown during investigations into the £26 million Brink's-Mat bullion robbery. Noye, who once used the alias Anthony Francis to buy a house, vanished the day after Mr Cameron's murder. Earlier this week Kent officers questioned John "Goldfinger" Palmer, a multi-millionaire and friend of Noye, about his whereabouts.

Mr Hole is also accused of handling a stolen Peugeot. No application for bail was made.

Your husband isn't at the office. He's in jail for fraud

BY ADRIAN LEE

AN ESTATE agent hid the shame of his business fraud from his wife for almost two years and through four court appearances. Yesterday, when she was expecting him home from work, it was left to a probation officer to explain he had just been jailed.

Judge Roger Scott told Derek Clarke, 51, a father of two who was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment: "It is very sad that the sentence will come as an absolute thunderbolt to your family."

Clarke, who ran the KDF estate agency in Chilton, Co Durham, "fell into the black hole of debt" during the property slump and turned to crime, Rod Hunt, for the defence, told Teesside Crown Court. But he could not bear to tell his wife, Carol. "He buries his head in the sands over his business and his wife."

Judith Garbutt, a probation officer who compiled reports, said: "I was unable to persuade him to tell her. She thinks he is out on business. She had been promoted at work at the time he was charged and he felt she had enough stress to deal with."

Clarke admitted dishonestly procuring £22,000 from a building society and three counts of theft involving £3,700 in rent money which should have gone to repay mortgages.

The judge said Clarke should have confided in his wife: "The impact on your family will be extremely severe, but these were mean and despicable offences.

"What you should have done is gone to a solicitor because you were, in effect, bankrupt. Your wife and children are going to be hurt by what you have done and by the knowledge that you did not have the courage, decency and trust in your wife to stand by you to tell her."

Clarke's barrister said his client was not a conman and had hoped to repay the money when the property market recovered. He had started the business in 1990 and, in addition to the slump, suffered when a partner decamped, leaving him alone with debts. He was a man of previous good character.

The court heard that in one instance, Clarke collected rent on behalf of a client who was abroad, but the money was never passed on to a building society to pay the mortgage on the property. Another house was repossessed when rents due were not paid by Clarke.

After the case, Mrs Garbutt contacted Mrs Clarke to break the news. A spokesman for the probation service said: "Mrs Clarke is now aware of what has happened. We cannot say how she reacted. That is a private matter."

Mrs Clarke, a supermarket manageress, later refused to comment at the family's semi-detached home in Middlestone village, near Spennymoor. A neighbour said that the couple lived a respectable family life with their children Gary, aged about ten, and Gemma, in her mid-teens.

Mr Clarke drove an estate car, wore smart suits to work and was a DIY enthusiast who was frequently seen improving his house. The family rarely went on holiday. The neighbour said: "I knew nothing of this. I don't know how his wife will take it. They have been very good neighbours and this does not change my opinion of him. I can't believe it."



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Solicitor struggles to Kensington Palace bearing Prince's weighty terms for divorce

Princess hopes for happy ending to weekend read

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND FRANCES GIBB

THE Princess of Wales will spend this weekend poring over a mass of carefully crafted papers offering her a full and final divorce from 15 years of turbulent marriage.

Anthony Julius, the solicitor handling her divorce, went to Kensington Palace yesterday to present her with the fine print of the Prince of Wales's immensely detailed proposals for a financial settlement. If the Princess agrees, a decree nisi could be granted before the end of this month. There was no indication yesterday, either from Mr Julius or the Princess's spokeswoman, of what she thought of the offer, whose value, the subject of speculation, has been put at between £15 and £20 million. Such is the weight of detail to be considered that an early announcement of acceptance or rejection is thought unlikely.

The Prince of Wales, who was in residence at Highgrove, gave his assent shortly after 6.15 on Thursday evening that the offer be conveyed to the enemy camp. Although the respective solicitors' offices were by that time closed for the day, an assistant solicitor from the Lincoln's Inn offices of Farrer and Co, where Fiona Shackleton represents the Prince, struggled round the corner bearing the bundle as discreetly as possible to the nearby Southampton Row offices of Mishcon de Reya, where Mr Julius represents the princess.



Fiona Shackleton, solicitor to the Prince: an assistant struggled to the Princess's lawyers bearing the bundle as discreetly as possible

Any final agreement is almost certain to include a "gagging clause" which will prevent the Princess from giving interviews or writing books in which intimate details of her marriage, or secrets she has learnt in her 15 years in the spotlight, might be disclosed. The Prince is thought agreeable to being bound by a similar promise.

The Princess's agreement to such a condition would be a major disappointment to television stations throughout the world who would be ready to offer huge fees for interviews like that recorded for *Panorama* last November. Lawyers for the prince will have gone to considerable lengths to work out how, in the event of a once-and-for-all settlement, the princess could be held to a confidentiality clause.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, were heavily involved in the talks about the divorce. Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, was also a key figure behind the scenes.

The couple's separation was formally announced by the Prime Minister in December 1992. With no firm facts available on the details of yesterday's offer, speculation has shifted to the timing of a divorce announcement. Some favour Monday, the day before President Mandela begins a four-day state visit to London. Buckingham Palace denies any connection between the two events but the Queen is deeply anxious that a visit by one of the statesmen she most admires should not be subject to distractions.

It is thought likelier that any announcement will be delayed until after Mr Mandela's departure, not least because each side has instructed a pair of eminent barristers who will not wish such a historic case to be concluded too hastily.

Last night, Downing Street reiterated that a divorced princess could not expect any official ambassadorial role — which in truth she never sought — and that any overseas tours would be strictly on behalf of whatever charity she was acting for at the time.

If, as expected, the Prince is offering a clean-break deal, he will need outside financial help, as a man with a generous income but no assets to speak of. His annual after-tax income from the Duchy of Cornwall, which last year amounted to £3.9 million, is nowhere near sufficient to fund the substantial lump-sum payment thought to be required to satisfy the Princess.

The Queen, given the precedent of her other children's divorces, is expected to step in with some financial help. However, the Prince may have to raise the balance by following the example of forebears similarly strapped for cash and take out a bank loan.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

OUT TO LUNCH



Bob Woodward, the celebrated reporter, continues his compelling account of how the Clintons embraced New Age solutions to tackle mounting problems at the White House

News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

Legal teams labour over the fine print

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE three top Queen's Counsel and one other senior barrister brought in to advise on the royal divorce settlement are playing a crucial role in ensuring any proposals are "court proof" should they end up before a judge.

They are also guided by what a court would award in the highly unlikely event of the settlement ending in litigation.

Barristers are frequently involved in complex divorce negotiations but it is highly unusual for two QCs to be instructed by one side, as is the case with the Prince of Wales.

On his side, Robert Seabrook, QC, a former Bar chairman, and Florence Baron, QC, have been instructed by Fiona Shackleton, the Prince's divorce solicitor, to draft documents and advise on the whole range of matters from pension arrangements to children and property.

On the Princess's side, Anthony Julius, her solicitor, has brought in Christopher McCall, QC, a top Chancery silk, and Nicholas Mostyn, a matrimonial specialist, who will now go through the documents with a fine comb.

The QCs, who are likely to be on a retained fee each of £2,000 a day, would have drawn up the proposals with an eye on previous rulings by courts in matrimonial settlements, while bearing in mind the exceptional nature of this particular break-up.

Their job is to ensure the wording cannot give rise to ambiguity and to look at documents from the point of view of a court. They also bring a fresh and more detached perspective to bear after solicitors have been involved for many months.

The breakthrough which saw the delivery of proposals on Thursday night from Farrer & Co, the Prince's solicitors, to Mishcon de Reya, lawyers for the Princess, came after a bout of intense legal work.

The Prince's lawyers have hammered out the deal through round-table meetings attended by all parties and advisers as well as in smaller groups, working into the evening and at weekends on occasions.



Julius: solicitor for the Princess

While Mrs Shackleton was in charge of the whole operation, Mr Seabrook would have taken chair at meetings as leading counsel. The deal has covered every aspect, from succession rights to the occupation of Kensington Palace.

Mr Seabrook has a niche practice in matrimonial work although he is mainly known for his professional negligence work. He is highly rated for his advocacy and cross-examination skills and his persuasive charm. One solicitor said: "He has a very good manner with clients, and he also goes down extremely well with judges."

He made headlines in his year as leader of the profession in 1994 by announcing a review of its restrictive practices.

Miss Baron, 43, is regarded as one of the first-rate silks at the matrimonial Bar. If Mr Seabrook has advised on the strategy of the settlement, the broad overview and the property aspects, she has handled the financial detail. Ivor Traherne, her clerk, said: "She has a forceful, no-nonsense approach but also a great sense of humour."

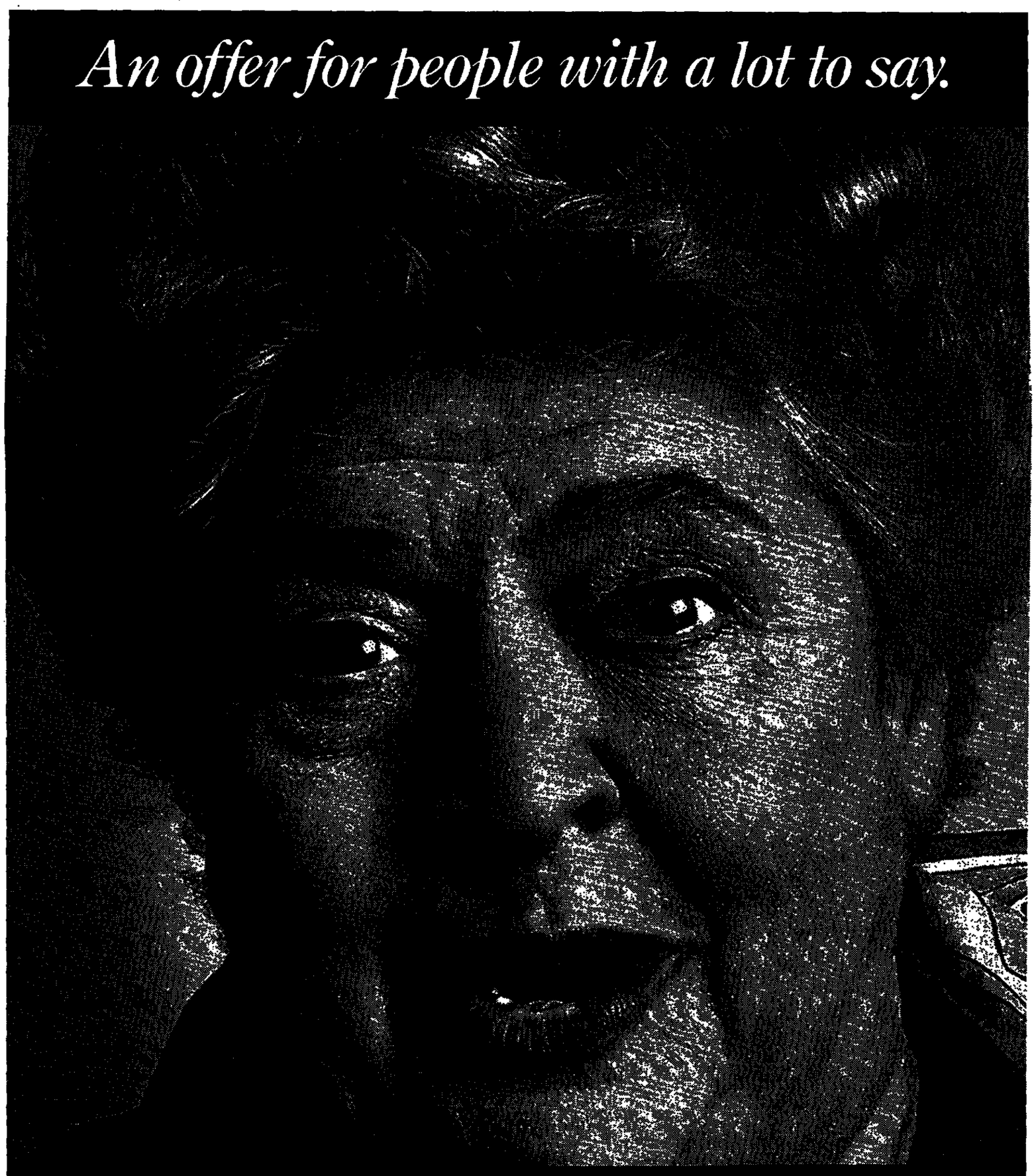
On the other side, Mr McCall is a specialist in charities and pensions work. He took silk in 1987 and has acted for the Treasury Solicitor in Chancery matters.

Nicholas Mostyn, the second top barrister on the Princess's side, is a matrimonial finance specialist. He is a particular expert on the Child Support Agency (on which he has written a book) as well as pensions-splitting. It will fall now to him and Mr McCall to study the settlement offer and decide if it is acceptable.



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Judge blocks attempt to cut care for disabled child

BY IAN MURRAY

A COUNCIL'S attempt to save money by cutting care for a disabled child was blocked by the High Court yesterday. Staffordshire County Council was told it must pay annual fees of £10,800 to send Harriet Jackson, 4, from Lichfield to a specialist institute instead of a £6,900-a-year nursery.

Mr Justice Collins said the county's case was "pretty hopeless". The authority had failed to prove that cheaper care would provide all the child's needs. Keeping her at the more expensive unit should make it possible to move her into mainstream schooling sooner, saving money in the long term. He awarded the parents all their costs.

Harriet's mother, Charlotte, said the ruling was "a great victory, not only for parents of special-needs children but for common sense as well." She added: "We have been through three years of hell. I have two seriously disabled children but our worst times have been fighting these grey council people who have no compassion at all.

"I just hope this makes them think twice before they put any other parents through the hell we have been through." Her husband, Philip, said that if they had lost the case they would have been bankrupted. "We have been struggling up to now to raise the money for Harriet's fees and to help her sister. The legal costs would have totally destroyed us."

Nicholas Bowen, their counsel, told the court that Harriet was a "child who is intellectually complete, locked in a body which would not work". Born two months prematurely at 2lb 2oz, she was the fittest of triplets. One sister died and the other, Rebecca, suffers from cerebral palsy.

Harriet, described in court papers as a "bright, sociable, strong-willed girl with an extensive vocabulary and above-average cognitive skills", has quadraplegic cerebral palsy. She has severe mobility problems and is able to move about only by rolling or crawling.

In September 1993 her parents sent her at their own expense to the Birmingham Institute of Conductive Education, where she received five hours of training five days a week. Four out of five children at the institute go into mainstream education, compared with only one in three who attend the nursery. Harriet is expected to transfer within three years.



Harriet's parents yesterday. Charlotte Jackson said: "These grey council people have no compassion at all"

Zoo turns away mentally handicapped group

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

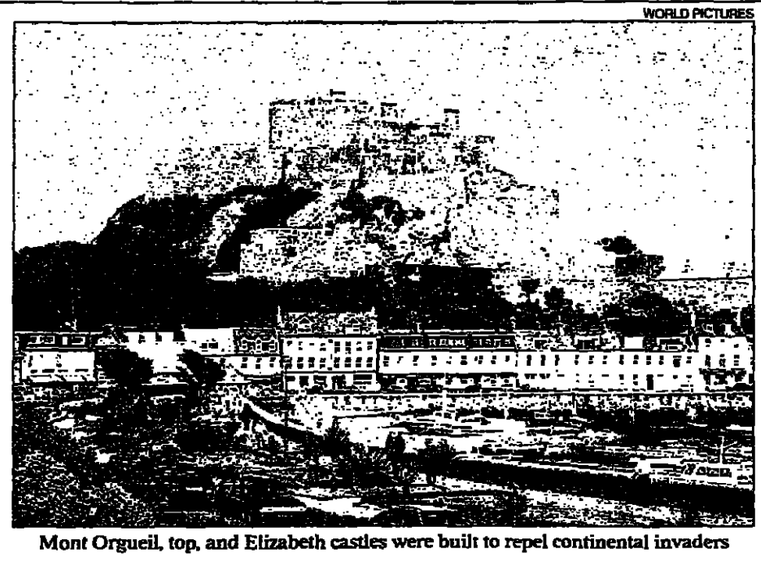
LORD RIX, the chairman of Mencap, expressed outrage yesterday that a party of six mentally handicapped people had been barred from a zoo because it was said they might alarm the animals.

The group, aged 25 to 48, three of them in wheelchairs, were on a week's trip from the Midlands to the Isle of Wight. A highlight was to be a visit to the private zoo at Sandown, but they were turned away by the owner, Angie Donaghoe, their carer, said: "We have visited zoos before and there has never been a problem. We do look after people with severe learning difficulties, and they can be a bit noisy and rowdy, but so are children and they are allowed in."

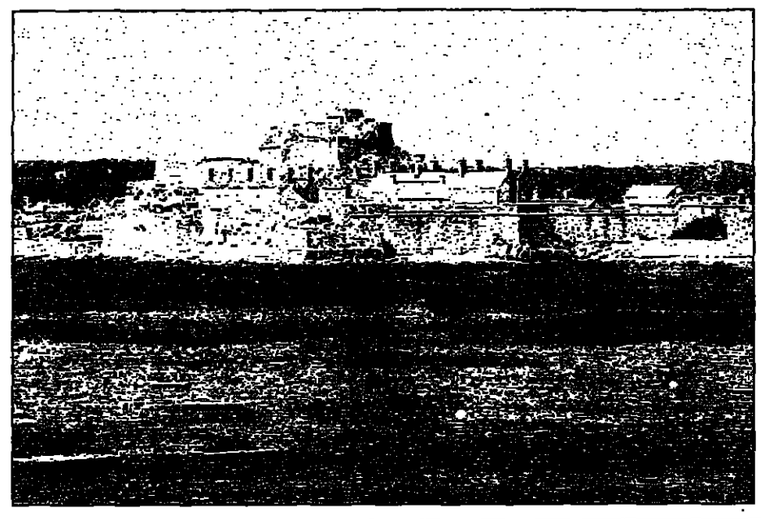
The zoo's owner, Jack Corney, said: "I explained the situation sympathetically. The adults were severely mentally disabled and I was very concerned that they may alarm the animals. One of the adults even had a violent fit while I was speaking to the carer and was trying to bite. It took two people to control him. All of the animals, but particularly the primates and big cats, can be very sensitive to human behaviour. Nobody but an idiot would have allowed them in. I wouldn't let someone in who turned up drunk."

Miss Donaghoe has complained to the island's tourist office. Lord Rix pointed out that the Disability Discrimination Act comes into force in November: "I am appalled and amazed and angry. We can't do anything about it because the Act is not yet in force."

WORLD PICTURES



Mont Orgueil, top, and Elizabeth castles were built to repel continental invaders



Britain makes gift of castles to Jersey

BY PHILIP JEUNE

TWO of Jersey's most famous landmarks, Orgueil and Elizabeth castles, will today be handed to the islanders after centuries of British ownership.

The castles were once Britain's first line of defence against invaders from the Continent, but after decades of peace the Queen has decided to give the historic fortresses to the island.

General Sir Michael Wilkes, the Lieutenant-Governor, will today hand the keys to the castles to Sir Philip Bailhache, the Bailiff of Jersey.

Mont Orgueil Castle, at Gorey, was built in the 13th century to repel French invaders. Elizabeth Castle, constructed 300 years later, was named by Sir Walter Raleigh, then the island's governor, in honour of his Queen. It stands on a rocky outcrop off St Helier.

The most recent invader of the castles, now popular tourist attractions, was the German occupying force in the Second World War. Group Captain Richard Green, Jersey's Receiver-General, said: "The threat of attack is considered so remote now that the Queen very graciously agreed to hand them to the people of the island."

Parents bearing greater share of university fees

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS are increasingly picking up the bill for their children's university education, a survey of the rising levels of student debt disclosed yesterday.

Undergraduates are more likely than ever to have a part-time job but more than one in three admits the main source of income is their parents.

The annual survey by Barclays Bank found students had an average debt of £1,982, a 32 per cent increase on last year, with undergraduates expecting to owe £3,021 by the end of their course. But very little of this was said to be owed to parents, suggesting students did not expect to pay them back. The findings were seized on by students and universities as evidence of the urgent need to reform the funding of higher education.

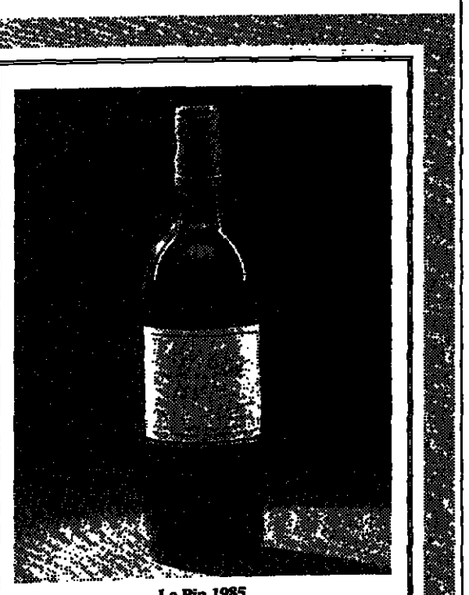
Student expenditure is estimated at £5,150 a year in London and £4,145 outside. In October, the London grant will be £2,105 and loan £2,035, while elsewhere the grant will be £1,710 and the loan £1,645.

Vice-chancellors, who are threatening to charge students a £300 signing-on fee if government cuts are not restored, said they were concerned that students were spending more time working for money and less time studying.

Nearly 1,500 students were interviewed at 16 universities for the survey. Students were also contributing more through their own endeavours. They save an average of £1,074 each before starting their degree and one in three has a part-time job.

Mathematics and science students owe the most money, an average of £2,263, which researchers speculated was because of their greater earning potential on graduation.

Student travel, page 33



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Man who wants schools to focus on right and wrong

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS and parents share the concerns over young people's spiritual and moral values expressed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, government advisers said yesterday. But they are unsure about *how to take a lead.*

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, whose chief executive, Nicholas Tate, prompted Dr Carey's interest, issued a summary of the ideas being considered by a series of *expert groups advising on* guidance to schools. Almost 200 people from business, the media, environmentalists, the law, social services and religious groups, are helping to draw up modern "commandments" *for schools.*

Among the proposals are a greater emphasis on spiritual and moral development in teacher training and a national review of personal and social education in schools. A SCAA conference held at the start of the year concluded that the lessons, which are part of the curriculum in almost all schools, lack rigour and often do not focus on issues relevant to young people.

The authority is aiming to produce guidance for the start of the next school year. The ten groups, each intended to bring a different perspective to the moral debate, will hold their final meetings before the end of the month.

Officials from the authority are also discussing personal *and moral development with* pupils in the course of their visits to schools. A spokeswoman said that children of all ages would have their views considered when the guidance was compiled over *the summer.*

Dr Tate began a campaign in the new year to encourage schools to concentrate more explicitly on morality. He immediately attracted the attention of Dr Carey, who *agreed that while children* may instinctively know what is right, they are uncertain about why and how to act in a moral way.

Dr Tate blamed intellectuals for portraying morality as a matter of personal choice. And some teachers, in the absence of a clear and publicly accepted moral framework, were influenced by this "moral relativism".

He said: "Teachers in general are careful to encourage moral behaviour in children. And evidence from polls shows that children by and large know the difference between right and wrong, and want to behave in a moral way. But what we lack is a clear framework to support the work of schools, a widely *acknowledged set of moral* values."

The expert forum is expected to produce a glossary of basic terms so that the moral debate can be conducted in a less confused climate. It is also *sampling schools' mission* statements and codes of conduct to spread good practice."

Dr Tate said that a public statement of moral rules would not amount to a "new Ten Commandments". The *intention was to provide* teachers with "certain rules of thumb". He added: "They may not be very surprising or original. But we hope that the public statement of what society accepts as right and wrong will reinforce the work teachers do in schools."

According to a MORI poll intended to help to frame the new moral curriculum, Children have a strong sense of right and wrong, but comparatively little interest in religious or philosophical questions. Almost nine out of ten pupils aged between 11 and 16 said it was always wrong to cheat at school and an even higher proportion agreed that stealing could never be justified. But fewer than half were interested in whether God *exists or expect life to improve* in adulthood.

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority sampled the opinion of both adults and children before embarking on its debate on spiritual and moral guidance. The adults were divided about whether children should be told what is right and wrong, or merely guided. Working-class respondents were more likely than the middle classes *to favour instruction.*

Teachers and athletes rate above religious leaders in adult eyes for setting the best moral example to children. Fewer than half considered that religious leaders set a good example, compared with three-quarters for the most favoured groups. Politicians and pop singers feature at the other end of the spectrum.

Fewer than half of the adults interviewed said they would never lie, but there were big differences between age groups. Two-thirds of those aged 15-24 admitted that they might lie, compared with fewer than one-third of those aged 65 or more.

Children were also split on a number of moral issues. Fewer than 60 per cent thought it always right to own up if they had done something wrong, and only 55 per cent said it was never right to call people names. Half said fighting could never be justified.

Young people are divided in their opinion of adults. Half thought that most adults were kind but as many disagreed with the proposition that most people were honest.

Although six out of ten were interested in the meaning of life and whether there is life after death, about a quarter showed no interest in either question. More than a third said they were not interested in the existence of God.



Nicholas Tate: "We lack a clear framework to support schools, a widely acknowledged set of moral values"

Credo

Passion for goodness sets us on road to religion

Lord Habgood

Arguments about whether morality needs to be based on religion, or whether dependence on some external divine authority undermines responsibility, seem set to continue. Both extreme positions miss the subtlety of the relationship between faith and morals.

Religious believers are often in danger of forgetting that true religion is about the heart, not about external conformity. Atheists may assert a passionate belief in distinguishing between right and wrong, while feeling that it is enough to base this on what one of them has recently described as "a sense of culture". Our culture, whether religious or not, is indeed the medium through which most of us learn our sense of right and wrong. But a passionate, and one hopes a critical, belief is surely not just the reflection of the culture in which one happens to be brought up.



If it is to be more than this, then unless it is a mere expression of personal *opinion, it somehow must* rest on a belief that the values being defended in one way or another inhere in the nature of human life itself. It is hard to take moral passion seriously if it is just a way of saying "This is how I happen to feel".

But what are the implications of saying that there is something about human life which makes a certain moral orientation more than just convenient, or basically necessary for survival, but a matter of passionate concern? It is too easy to leap from that question straight into the arms of God. But I do not think it possible to bypass it without recognising it as one of the main questions which have set people off on a religious quest.

In the end, religions are about what is really felt to matter and what is really believed to be the case. The religious quest takes a variety of social forms and is embedded in a variety of histories, not all of which are admirable. In almost all its forms, however, it anchors human life in values which transcend the individual, and has the potential to criticise cultures which betray those values. Belief is not about closing one's eyes and wishing some things were true. It is more about responding to a perception of what is good, and making sense of one's deepest insights into what underpins and promotes that good. As a Christian I try to respond to a life which was judged to be "full of grace and truth" and which encapsulated and confirmed the long-explored Jewish belief that goodness is not a matter of arbitrary human choice, but is somehow "meant". I do this in a religious tradition, Anglicanism, which while holding fast to the central insights has laid great stress on openness, balance and sanity, all of which are highly necessary in a world where the passion which lies at the heart of religion can easily get out of hand.

Those who grow up in this tradition may, if only for a time, feel impelled to express their passionate sense of what matters by moving to one of the extremes, or even by moving outside it altogether. Openness, balance and sanity are certainly not the whole story. Such rejections, however, do not invalidate the essential link between goodness and the religious quest as I have tried to express it. My hope is that a low-key and undogmatic exploration of the territory may help towards a more successful meeting of minds.

Lord Habgood was Archbishop of York from 1983 to 1995.

At your service
Weekend, page 15



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Peers blame business, education system and the media for decline in national standards

Society shaken by an 'assault on traditional values'

BY ALICE THOMSON, TIM JONES AND JAMES LANDALE

THE House of Lords yesterday held an unprecedented debate on morality which had been urgently called for by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Peers from all sides spoke on the decline of standards in public and private life. Many blamed the media, single parents, poorly paid teachers, modern education attitudes and questionable business ethics for eroding the moral fabric of the nation.

Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach, former head of Margaret Thatcher's policy unit, speaking for the Government, said: "A moral and spiritual basis is crucial to our institutions and crucial to the family. If a family has a moral and spiritual core, it's much more likely to hold together. If a school has a moral and spiritual ethos to it, which distinguishes right from wrong it is a better school.

"If a company has integrity and responsibility and respect for individuals at its heart, it's a better company and people will prefer to work for it. If a nation has standards and trust is fostered within the nation, it is a better nation."

He said that society had been shaken by the "prevailing assault" on traditional values. "With rising figures for violence, divorce, drug abuse and illegitimacy, it is hard to think that the spiritual and moral well-being of the nation is not in decline."

Lord Morris of Castle Morris, Labour's education spokesman, said that clergy and teachers would never be respected until they were better paid. "The morale of today's school teachers is not high. Neither is their pay. Their status and the respect afforded to them by society has been severely eroded and until all these are reversed, their formative influence on the children they teach will not be as powerful as it used to be.

"It is a sad fact that today respect is given to the higher paid and the low paid workers are despised. Teachers must not be in that category."

He said religious education should be taught by teachers "who personally believe one of the faiths and practise it". Moral issues must be part of the examination process and marks awarded dependent on the understanding of them. Parents should be taught about morals as well as how to change nappies.

Baroness Seear, for the Liberal Democrats, blamed the influence of the media, particularly television, which was watched by the average person for 27 hours a week. "That puts a most enormous responsibility of the television people. Television is a wonderful way in which people learned to imitate.

"How we can control this, I don't know. But I want to put very strongly to the people who control television that their responsibility today is greater than any other unit in society I can think of. It can only be done by self-control inside the media itself. If I do nothing else today, I do want to draw attention to that."

The Bishop of Winchester, the Rt Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, blamed modern society for its "obsession with instant gratification". He blamed the 1980s with its pursuit of competitiveness at all costs. He also railed against "soundbites which were ultimately untrue", and the media because they idealised infidelity, making it seem mature, fun and interesting.

Lord Jakobovits, the former Chief Rabbi, said it was right that the moral state of the nation should be put at the top of the national agenda. Agreeing that schools played a pivotal role in the the moral shaping of the nation he said: "If our children are raised in a moral vacuum then the essential ingredient of our civilisation will progressively disappear with incalculable consequences to the stability of our society."

We lived, he said, in an age of rebellion against all authority, with a belief that people should be non judgmental as though morality could be neutral. "In respect of children's education we encounter much opposition to what is called indoctrination. We are told let children grow up to decide for themselves on the moral choices before them: let them discover on their own what is right and what is wrong. This is pernicious advice."

Lord Elton, chairman of the 1988 Inquiry into Discipline in Schools and a former minister, said that self-discipline and self denial were essential but now regarded by some as irrelevant and as a weakness or folly. They were, however, at the heart of the Lord's teaching.

Because access to the mass media had eroded the influence parents had over their children, teachers had a crucial role to play in promoting a virtuous and just society. "Teachers are the trustees of the nation's entire stock of useable knowledge. What they do or what they do not do will have a profound influence on every one of their pupils. It is not just a question of believing what you teach, it is a question of living it."

Lord Campbell of Croy, a former Tory Scottish Secretary, said that he lamented the decline in school assemblies with daily prayers. "They provided a simple opportunity to instil standards and indicate what good conduct in ordinary life consisted of."

> "We don't want a nation whose motto is: I'm in the boat, Jack, shove off"

People appeared to be more concerned over what what legal and illegal rather what was right and wrong. There were a number of issues, including commercial espionage and leaks by government officials, that were hard to prove in a court of law but which were, morally, clearly wrong.

Lord Pilkington of Oxenford, a new life peer and former Headmaster of Kings School, Canterbury, said he had spent many years interviewing prisoners when he served on a parole board. Many were the product of broken families, and had been abused by their stepfathers. They had played truant, left school without qualifications and had drifted into crime.

"They had no experience of family life, no model on which to build loving relationships. These are the cases of a society which lacks an agreed system of values. Parents, schools and the society at large have to try and build up a system of moral values in a society without any agreed ideology."

However, the atmosphere in schools prevented them improving their moral standards. Part of the blame lay in moral relativism, a belief that there are no standard values, that morality is just taste or opinion, and in the belief that individuals are not responsible for their actions.

Lord Moore of Wolvercote, a crossbencher and former civil servant, said that everybody reached a time in their lives when they questioned the origins of the universe and whether there was a God. "There is therefore a great responsibility of our schools to make sure that young men and women have received some spiritual and moral education before they go out into the world. Religious education should have the highest priority."

He said that many of our parents failed or were unable to do this so the responsibility fell on the schools. But he asked: "Are our teachers properly trained to instil in children some awareness of spiritual and moral values. Perhaps the greatest challenge facing our society today is the training of our teachers."

He also called for more religious broadcasting on television. "The most significant influence on children today is television but religious programmes on television remain very inadequate."

Viscount Caldecote, a Conservative, said: "Some people would assert that we don't need a nanny state but equally we don't want a nation whose motto is: 'I'm in the boat, Jack, shove off'. An amoral society is not a happy society. How much happier and more fulfilled would our national life be if the principles of the ten commandments were more widely practised?"

The Bishop of Ripon, the Right Rev David Young, said that religious education and morning assemblies helped pupils to consider the fundamental questions of life. "It's the whole curriculum, the life of the whole school, that provides the setting for spiritual and moral development."

Lord Pearson of Rannoch, a Conservative, attacked progressive education methods and political correctness as a "cancer" in the school system. "The educational philosophies successfully promoted by these destructive forces contain at least two fatal strands for an understanding of morality in our schools. It blurs the difference between right and wrong generally and it promotes the multi-faith mish-mash of religious teaching."

Lord Pearson accused the Church of failing to offer enough spiritual leadership. "We are not getting that guidance, that spiritual leadership from established religions."

Lord Borrie, a Labour peer and former long-standing Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, said modern-day role-models such as sports stars and musicians had a responsibility for moral leadership. "They may not choose to be influential but whether they choose to or not . . . they have a responsibility to behave in a responsible and ethical way."

He argued for greater moral behaviour within the business and financial communities. They must not rely too heavily on law to regulate their behaviour as economic competition increased.

Lord Marsh, a former Labour transport minister and former British Rail chairman, said that neither he nor any member of his family held religious beliefs. Claims that society was on the brink of moral collapse were a gross exageration.

"Caring and compassion are not the preserve of the moral minority. They are the natural instincts of normal human beings, rich and poor alike. I wish some of those who flaunt their personal sense of compassion, with somewhat tiresome frequency, would accept that personal wealth plays a major and essential role in a caring society."

Viscount Tonypandy, the former Commons Speaker, said: "This country will never be able to measure its debt to dedicated teachers. If society has gone wrong, don't put the blame on the schools. If society has lost its way, it's because it's lost its faith. How it lost its faith is another question. But undoubtedly our faith decides our conduct and our moral standards."

Lord Ashbourne, a Conservative peer, said that the family had become a prime target of attack and was crumbling. Old values had been swept away and new humanist laws voted in.

"The traditional family used to be a place to grow, find love and acceptance and security. Today the Department of Health gives the Terrence Higgins Trust — a sophisticated, highly articulate homosexual organisation — substantial funding, though mercifully less than it used to, and it has gained a marked influence on government thinking. New permissive legislation has weakened traditional family structure and children in particular have become vulnerable."

He accused politicians of having started the moral decline with the withdrawl of the prohibition on witchcraft in 1951 and new permissive legislation. "They then decriminalised homosexuality, allowed abortions, artificial insemination for single women."

Lord Quirk, a former professor of language and literature, blamed in part the media for the decline in moral and spiritual standards. "It is not the schools which publish the xenephobic comics nor our teachers who wrote the headlines during Euro 96."

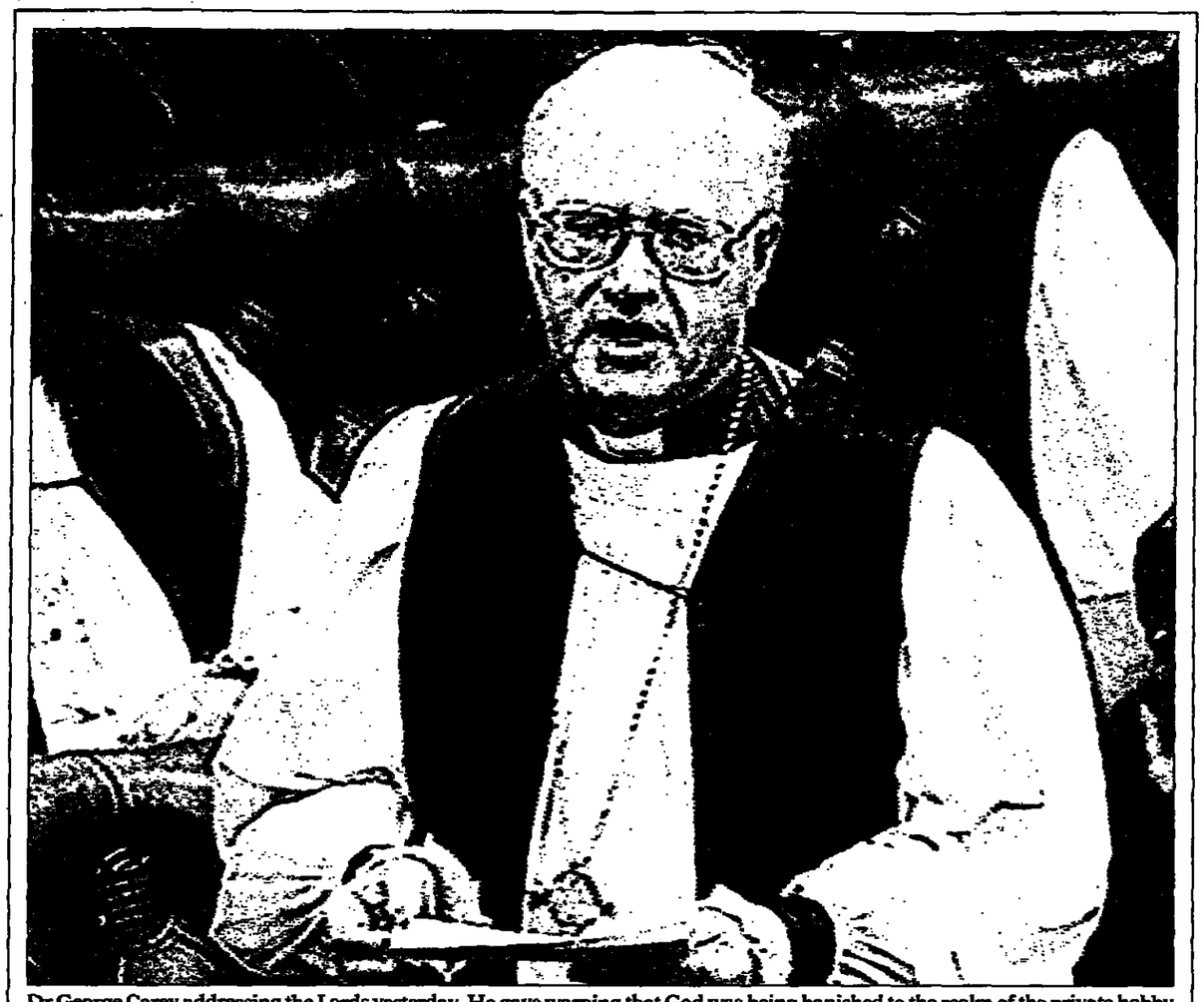
Lord Cranborne, Leader of the House, summing up for the Government, said that although the overwhelming majority of people were honest, generous and kind, in an age of increasing material prosperity the number of people who did not accept the moral consensus was worrying. "The number that do behave badly is increasing and the cost in terms of social cohesion and taxpayers' money is colossal."

He emphasised that individuals must take responsibility for their actions, and gave warning against the economic dependency culture. He praised the family as the basic building block of society.

Education was important in shaping moral values. "But I do think that schools cannot bear the burden alone. There are some of us who must help, above all those who are parents."

Winding up the debate, **Dr Carey** said: "This has been a very optimistic debate. We not looked forward in despair but addressed real issues with a sense of purpose." He said there were three areas of agreement. The importance of nurturing moral values in young people, the central role of schools and teachers, and the duty of all sections of society — parents, the media and the entertainment industry — to exercise their powers responsibility.

"You cannot take moral behaviour for granted. It needs to be redefined, re-examined, and nurtured again and again. It is my hope that we will find ways of strengthening the moral fibre of the nation in the days ahead."



Dr George Carey addressing the Lords yesterday. He gave warning that God was being banished to the realm of the private hobby

Carey urges parents and teachers to set an ethical example for all

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

BRITAIN must fight back against moral and spiritual decline, the Archbishop of Canterbury declared yesterday. Dr George Carey, opening a Lords debate on society's moral and spiritual wellbeing and the role of schools, said that God was being banished to the realm of the private hobby.

The Archbishop emphasised the importance of the family in setting a moral lead and said that religion had to be central to the education of young people.

A moral code was needed in life, just as rules were needed in football, he said, and be reinforced the central role of the Ten Commandments. "We take it for granted that you cannot play a game of football without rules. Rules do not get in the way of the game, they make the game possible. It is strange that what we take as so obvious for games we deem unnecessary for life."

He said that the British had been given a set of rules in the Ten Commandments, but were in danger of squandering their inheritance. "Moreover, we all know that the toughest moral decisions are not always between right and wrong, but between two rights which pull in different directions. So we desperately need our young people to learn both the basic rules and the judgment with which to confront the constant dilemmas of life. It would be a failure if our schools were to produce people with the right skills and aptitudes to take on our economic competitors, but who cannot string two sentences together about the meaning and purpose of life or who have no idea what it means to be a good citizen and a moral person."

In his 40-minute speech, Dr Carey gave a warning against romanticising the moral standards of a past age. But he told the Lords: "My main concern since becoming Archbishop has been the way that people now see what is good and right as a matter of private taste and individual opinion only.

"Many people now find it embarrassing to talk about either religion or morality in public and the traditional vocabulary of moral discourse — virtue, sin, good, bad, right, wrong, moral, wholesome, godly, righteous and sober — have come under acute contemporary suspicion. Under this tendency, God is banished to the realm of the private hobby and religion becomes a particular activity for those who happen to have a taste for it."

He quoted the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, saying: "It is as if in the 1950s and 1960s we set a timebomb ticking which would eventually explode the moral framework into fragments. The human cost has been colossal . . . But the cost has been far wider in terms of the loss of authority, institutions in crisis, and the loss of a public sense of moral order."

Dr Carey said: "And yet, I sense that many many people of all political persuasions recoil in horror from a world in which there are no rights and wrongs except what we individuals deem to be true for ourselves."

The family must bear the brunt of teaching a moral code, the Archbishop said. "An average child spends one fifth of their time at school. Many schoolteachers feel that their efforts to develop moral and spiritual teaching are not supported by families, who are giving their children quite contradictory messages. The family is of prime importance. It has to be a partnership with families, schools and the wider community."

Dr Carey welcomed the consultation initiative by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority on moral values, and was pleased that the school inspectorate was looking at moral and spiritual development in schools.

"What we have to combat is the idea that the spiritual and moral matters are add-on extras, contingent on giving overwhelming priority to more utilitarian education goals. I believe that there is a great deal to be done here in teacher-training to help to give teachers greater confidence, skills and techniques in bringing out the moral and spiritual aspects of many different subjects."

He concluded: "I believe that the fight back against moral and cultural relativism is under way. There is now a reaction against moral relativism a growing mood in favour of a more truthful and more constructive way of describing the things that bind us together."

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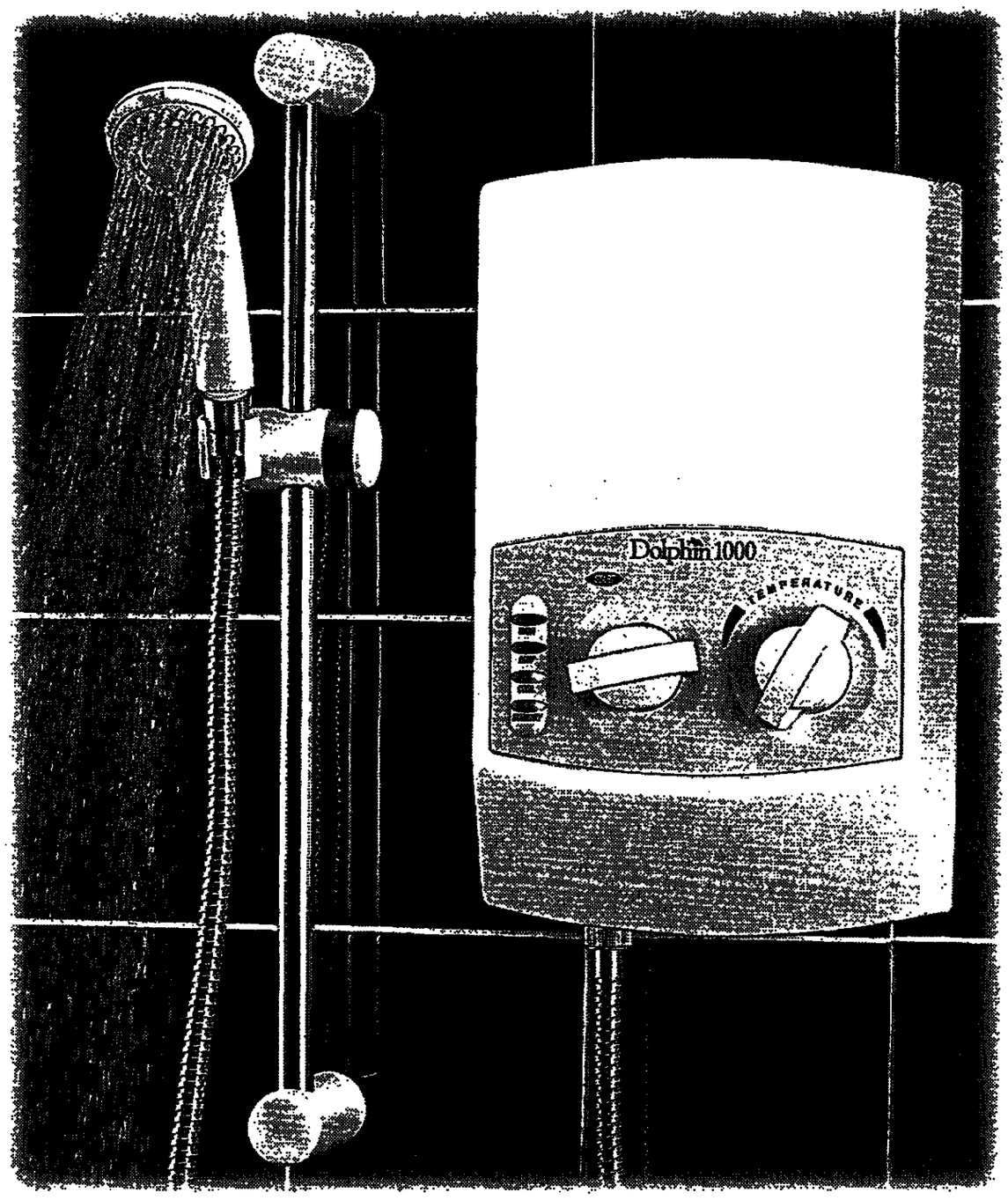
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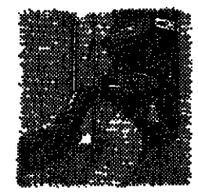
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MPs poised to lift rail link blight on thousands of homes

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A PLAN for a £3 billion freight railway line from the Midlands to the Channel Tunnel that has blighted thousands of homes in London and the shires is likely to be killed off by MPs in a Commons vote this month.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats have already said they are opposed to the privately funded project, known as Central Railway, and the Government, although still officially neutral, is expected to follow suit.

Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, will announce next week that time will be made available for a Commons debate and a free vote on the proposals between July 22 and July 25, when MPs rise for the summer recess. The vote will be the first under the Government's Transport and Works Act, which requires major infrastructure projects to receive the backing of both Houses of Parliament before going to public inquiry.

The Government hopes that by squeezing in the vote at the end of the sitting the anxiety that has afflicted angry constituents along a 180-mile swath of Tory seats from Rugby to Folkestone can be lifted before the recess.

It is expected that only a few MPs will attend the debate because of its proximity to the summer break. The 25 members whose constituencies are on the route of the railway will almost certainly vote against it.

A spokesman for Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said Labour was opposed to the scheme because it was not properly funded, had technical flaws and was a blight to thousands of householders. For a fraction of the cost of the railway, the existing West Coast Main Line could be upgraded to carry international freight trains to the Channel Tunnel rail link, he said.

David Chidgey, the Liberal Democrat transport spokesman, said his party also opposed the scheme.

However, the outcome of the Commons division still remains uncertain because of the small total number of votes likely to be cast and because Central Railway, a private consortium formed in 1989 that has already spent £9 million on the proposals, has yet to start its main lobbying campaign. "I have a feeling things are beginning to move in Central's direction," a spokesman for the company said. However, only a handful of MPs have supported the plan so far.

Andrew Gritten, chairman of Central Railways, is due to meet Labour MPs representing Midlands constituencies at the Commons next week in an attempt to persuade them to support the project in the lobbies. He will argue that the link, which could open by 2001, will take more than a million lorries off the roads a year, providing huge benefits for the environment and creating hundreds of jobs.

The link would involve the construction of a line from the Midlands to the Channel Tunnel capable of daily carrying dozens of half-mile-long trains loaded with freight. Lorries would transfer their trailers to the trains at two huge depots, near Rugby and Uxbridge, west of London.

The route would require up grading some existing track, reinstating the axed Great Central Railway through Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire and the construction of about ten miles of new tunnel.

MPs have been showered with letters from angry constituents whose properties are along the route. Tracey Harvey, 32, whose garden in Denham, Buckinghamshire, skirts the route, said the blight was like a nightmare. Properties in her street had become unsaleable and the company was offering no compensation because it would be making use of an existing line.

DAVE CHESKIN



Peter Boddington: said he intended to fight on, despite £30,000 High Court costs

Sixty-a-day man fails to end BR ban on smoking

A COMMUTER yesterday lost his attempt to overturn a total smoking ban on trains between London and Brighton. Peter Boddington, 42, who smokes 60 cigarettes a day, tried to persuade the High Court that British Rail was forbidden by its bylaws to impose the ban.

Two judges dismissed his appeal against a £10 fine for smoking. Lord Justice Auld conceded that the smoking ban left "scope for legal debate" and may let the issue go to the House of Lords.

Mr Boddington, who owns a market in south London and lives in Brighton, was ordered to pay costs that may total £30,000. Lord Justice Auld said the the ban could have been challenged by a judicial review.

Mr Boddington said afterwards that he did not care what the action was costing him. "British Rail used intimidatory methods to enforce this ban," he said. "Plainclothes officers were used to catch people smoking who were then visited at home and asked to sign a document saying they would not smoke again."

Chris Randall, a spokesman for Network South-Central, which runs the line, said the no-smoking policy "was introduced after 86 per cent of our customers, smokers as well as non-smokers, said they were in favour".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Irish lorry caused M6 alert

An Irish lorry driver was blamed for the 4½-hour closure of the M6 on Thursday. The bomb squad was called in after Cheshire police stopped the lorry at Sandbach and found discrepancies in papers and the vehicle. The M6 was closed while checks were made. Police said: "The driver was extremely obstructive. Public safety was paramount in our minds." The man is still being held on suspicion of having false documents.

Sentence raised

Ian Wartnaby, a Lincoln ambulanceman who assaulted a farmer after his empty vehicle was held up by a tractor, had a six-week jail sentence increased to six months at Nottingham Crown Court. He had appealed against conviction and sentence.

Libel damages

An animal-rights campaigner accepted undisclosed libel damages over an article in the *Daily Express* which portrayed him as a violent thug. David Price, solicitor for Gareth Krisman, 26, a student, said his client's character had been assassinated.

Yachtsman dies

A Briton was killed in the Philippines when his yacht touched power cables. Graham Aspery, 35, of Hayling Island, Hampshire, died when his catamaran mast brushed the cables between a causeway and an island 100 miles southeast of Manila.

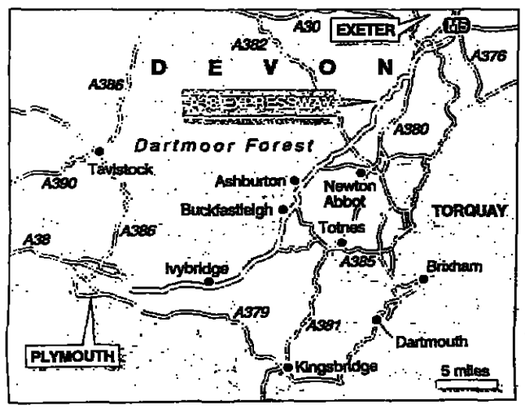
Welsh revived

An orthopaedic surgeon who banned Welsh in his theatre at Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital in Bangor has been told that Wales is bilingual and staff are free to speak Welsh if they so choose. A spokesman said: "It was his first day. There will not be a recurrence."

Chindit papers

The Imperial War Museum has acquired Major General Orde Wingate's papers relating to Chindit operations in Burma in 1944. The purchase, for an undisclosed price, was made possible with a £19,500 grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Slow boat to Cornwall sets the pace on nation's first 'expressway'



BY PETER BARNARD

IT has been called the longest country lane in England. It twists to avoid natural obstacles, it dips and climbs over the Devon landscape. Cows graze near the roadside, tractors inch messily along and bed-and-breakfast signs swing in the breeze.

Now change is coming. Well, in a way. The Government has decided that the A38 between Exeter and Plymouth is to become Britain's first expressway, to encourage motorists to make more use of it. The road will not be widened, straightened or flattened, although ministers are asking the Ordnance Survey to think of a special colour on maps to distinguish expressways from "ordinary" A roads. As with many other aspects of modern life, the road is getting a new image.

Judged by my drive along the 37 miles from the M5 at Exeter to the outskirts of Plymouth yesterday, the initial reaction is underwhelming.

"Is this is a joke?" asked Alan Yeo, who was among a group of drivers told the news by *The Times* in the lorry park at Exeter services. "The trouble with politicians is that they never see the A38 except to fly over it."

Steve Drake, who drives 7.5 tonnes of truck along the A38, said: "There are hills where you can be down to 20mph and bends which are just as bad. This will encourage people to drive faster."

In fairness, I was nearly halfway to Plymouth before I encountered a tractor. It was pulling a trailer full of something that looked like a prime suspect in the BSE crisis. Before that, my main problem was a JCB travelling so slowly up Halden Hill that I could have asked the driver his opinions without getting out of my car — if only I hadn't needed all my concentration to cope with a lorry carrying a large boat past the JCB at the time.

At this point, the words of David Curry, minister for the West Country, drifted into my mind: "Regular users of this route will be aware of its near-motorway standard, but it may not be so readily apparent to other road users."

He can say that last bit again.

There are places where "near-motorway standard" does apply. The stretch between the M5 and Exeter racecourse consists of three lanes — for 3.7 miles. There is a three-lane stretch of three miles as the road reaches Plymouth. In between there is 33.4 miles of dual carriageway.

Admittedly much of it can be covered at motorway speeds — particularly in the middle of the night. In the middle of yesterday, one needed the nerve of Damon Hill to make Mr Curry's perception a reality. Other roads likely to be considered for classification as expressways — rather than the more costly motorway status — include the A3, the A34, the A45 and the A55.

The A38 is by no means a bad road, but surely an "expressway" is straight with no exits, no slow traffic, no hitchhikers, no Happy Eaters — and no slow boats to Cornwall.



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Lincoln Cathedral rivals join forces to defy Carey

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

ONE of the two Lincoln Cathedral clergy asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury to resign has made public his reasons for refusing.

Canon Rex Davis, the subdean, published yesterday his written reply, dated June 27, to Dr George Carey. It declares that the archbishop has no authority to remove him from office and that he is determined to fight for his job.

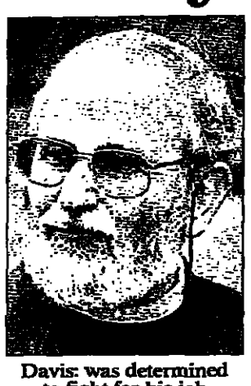
In the letter, Canon Davis makes a surprise plea on behalf of the dean, the Very Rev Dr Brandon Jackson, who has also been asked to resign. The dean was sent to Lincoln as a trouble-shooter after an exhibition in Australia of the cathedral's Magna Carta, organised by Canon Davis, lost the Church £56,000 and the Australian Government £579,000.

Canon Davis tells Dr Carey that it would be "neither proper nor fair" to ask the dean to step down when he is facing civil proceedings on charges of sexual misconduct with a female verger. He writes: "It seems to me outrageously unfair you should put this sort of pressure on Dean Jackson at this time ... the Archbishop is on the wrong foot."

Canon Davis complains that the report drawn up by the archbishop's envoy, Hector McLean, is flawed. "If there is the substance of a case against me in ecclesiastical law, then it should be brought," he wrote. "If not, then I believe resistance to what seems to me to be improper and unsubstantiated allegations remains a wholly justified and, indeed, only option open to me."

Dr Jackson is on a long-planned bed-and-breakfast holiday in Yorkshire to help his wife to recuperate from illness. He is said by his aides to be seeking guidance through prayer. Few among the cathedral staff believe that Dr Jackson, 61, a controversialist who relishes battle, will accede quietly to Dr Carey's request to resign.

There are signs that the two men whose personal animosity inflamed the ecclesiastical crisis are ready to forge an alliance against the archbishop. One cleric said yesterday that Dr Carey had achieved the unthinkable by forcing the two men into the same camp.



Davis: was determined to fight for his job

Canon Davis said: "I told the dean this recently and we laughed about it. There is, I think, a misconception, which the archbishop has actually fuelled, that we are at loggerheads all the time. It really is unfair that this should be made the main issue."

The dean's legal problems are not over. Dr Jackson was cleared in a church consistory court last year of sexual misconduct with a female verger, Verity Freestone, 33. A hearing to decide whether her allegations can form the basis of an industrial tribunal case is scheduled for July 11. Ms Freestone is also pursuing a civil action.

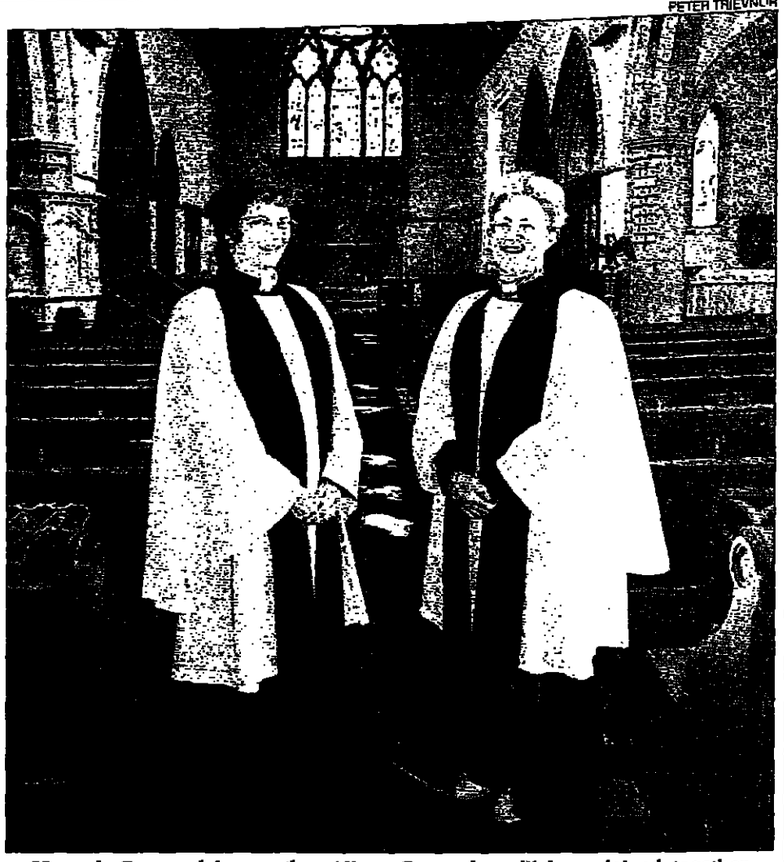
Some members of the congregation have written to the Queen, who has the power to sack the two men, to intervene. The cathedral staff remains split, with most canons supporting the sub-dean and many of the senior laity lining up behind the dean.

☐ A trade union said yesterday that clergy were turning increasingly to it to protect their homes and jobs. About 400 are members of the MSF, the professional and technical union, reflecting the erosion of the clergy's traditional rights of tenure and the growing power of bishops.

Chris Ball, national secretary of the MSF, said: "The clergy are probably less secure in their jobs than any other group of workers in Europe."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 15

PETER TRIEVNOR



Hannah Caw and her mother Alison Caw, who will be ordained together tomorrow at St Mary's and All Saints, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire

Widower speaks of reporter's crusade

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE husband of the murdered Irish journalist Veronica Guerin, speaking on what would have been his wife's 37th birthday, thanked the Irish people for their support and said he hoped somebody would take up her crusade against the underworld.

Graham Turley was speaking in public for the first time since his wife was shot, apparently by contract killers, in Dublin ten days ago. Police suspect Dublin gangland figures about whom she was writing for the *Sunday Independent* were involved.

Speaking on RTE radio, he thanked the Irish people for their support, cards and flowers. The Government announced a £12 million crime package in the wake of the public outrage at the killing.

"Veronica's death will not be in vain," Mr Turley said. "I would love to think that somebody takes up the crusade."

He and their seven-year-old son Cathal celebrated his wife's birthday in the usual way: "The presents were there this morning. They were opened. We'll have a family party like we always had a family party. Veronica's cards will be displayed. She is there with us. There is no time that Veronica won't be here."

Ms Guerin became a journalist six years ago after working briefly as an accountant, in public relations and as a researcher for Charles Haughey, the former Irish Prime Minister.

Her husband said that after she was shot in the thigh last year by a masked gunman they had discussed whether she should continue her work. "We had a little bit of a family meeting and I said 'Let's pull in the reins and sit down and talk'. She said 'I love this', and I said 'I am not going to interfere'. She was besotted with it."

He did not think he would ever come to terms with what had happened to his wife. "The most cherished thing I ever wanted is gone," he said.



Veronica Guerin: family celebrated her birthday

Driver ran to his death chasing bus gang

BY KATE ALDERSON

A BUS driver died of a heart attack after chasing a gang who tried to steal his takings. Harold Oakley, 45, had abandoned his vehicle to pursue the youths through Liverpool city centre and into a three-storey block of flats.

Mr Oakley, from Speke, Liverpool, was found 30 minutes later by residents, bleeding from a cut to his head. He died shortly before paramedics reached the flats in Juvenal Street, near the city centre.

A post-mortem examination showed yesterday that a heart attack was the cause of death in Thursday's incident. A police spokeswoman said the death was still being treated as suspicious and officers were examining the circumstances.

The driver was married with a 21-year-old daughter. He had worked for three years for CMT Buses, whose director Jeff Grant said: "It was typical of him to stand up for what he thought was right."

There were up to ten youths, aged between 14 and 20. A boy aged 16 was being interviewed by police yesterday.

In January, a bus driver was slashed across the face in Huyton, Liverpool. His attacker got away with £12.

You must be serious about Self Assessment



A vital point to remember for everyone who usually receives a tax return form. The first Self Assessment tax year has begun. There's no disputing that to stay ahead of the game you should be keeping a full record of your income and expenses.

What records should you be keeping.....?

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How to avoid penalties.....

There will be a clear timetable setting out what you have to do by when. Keeping to the right dates for sending back your tax return and making payments will help you avoid interest and penalties.

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Bardot: bounty offer

Bardot offers 'wolf' bounty

BY BEN MACINTYRE

BRIGITTE BARDOT, the former film star, has offered a reward of Fr10,000 (£1,300) for the capture of a suspected wolf that has savaged sheep in the Larzac region of south-central France.

The animal has killed about 50 animals on the Larzac plateau, a prime sheep-breeding area, despite efforts by farmers to find and destroy it.

The Brigitte Bardot Foundation condemned "the fury of farmers who would track down and kill the supposed wolf, which has still not even been identified", and criticised the French Environment Ministry for authorising the execution.

Another wolf-hunt was organised by Larzac shepherds yesterday in an attempt to catch the animal, described as grey-brown and standing at least 6in taller than an alsatian.

Mme Bardot, 61, has insisted the animal must be captured alive to earn the bounty. If it does turn out to be a wolf, it is unlikely to join Mme Bardot's menagerie of stray dogs, cats, ducks and chickens. It will probably go to a wildlife park.

Roger Scruton, page 22
Leading article, page 23

French rail chief is held in oil firm fraud inquiry

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE head of SNCF, France's state-owned railway company, was behind bars yesterday after a judge ordered his detention over allegations of fraud when he ran the vast French petroleum company, Elf-Aquitaine.

Loïk Le Floch-Prigent, 52, is the most prominent businessmen to be implicated so far in a series of corruption scandals. He is suspected of misusing corporate funds, receiving stolen goods and publishing false accounts to help a friend and fellow company head when he was chairman of Elf from 1989 to 1993.

He was questioned for 12 hours on Thursday by an anti-corruption magistrate, Judge Eva Joly, then placed under formal investigation and remanded in custody in Paris pending a fraud inquiry.

The magistrate, who is currently under police protection, is investigating how Elf came to invest Fr787 million (£100 million) in the ailing Bidermann textile company between 1989 and 1993. Maurice Bidermann, the former head of the clothing company and a close friend of the detained SNCF chief, is also in custody. So far eight people are under formal investigation.

Much of the money made over to M Bidermann's company went through offshore accounts and M Le Floch-Prigent and his wife allegedly received numerous "gifts" from the textile magnate. M Le Floch-Prigent was appointed chairman of SNCF after last winter's crippling transport strikes. A skilled negotiator and a favourite of the unions, he was hailed as the only man capable of mounting a rescue operation for the debt-saddled company.

M Le Floch-Prigent is the first head of a French public company to be incarcerated, but the Elf-Bidermann affair is only the latest and most dramatic in a string of corruption investigations, many involving illegal party funding, that have rocked France's political establishment. This week the Government was accused of seeking to derail a separate legal investigation involving Jean Tiberi, the Mayor of Paris and a leading figure in the ruling Gaullist party.

The authorities said they had decided to detain the SNCF chairman because of fears of "public disturbances" if he remained at liberty. Government officials yesterday sidestepped the question of whether M Le Floch-Prigent should resign. Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, insisted M Le Floch-Prigent, whose appointment was personally approved by President Chirac, should be presumed innocent unless found guilty at trial.

"The chairman of the SNCF will take whatever decision his conscience dictates. It is not up to me or others to give him advice," said Charles Million, the Defence Minister.

The Socialist Party yesterday called on M Chirac and the Government to take full responsibility for the appointment of M Le Floch-Prigent, even though the businessman is widely regarded as a figurehead of the Left.

M Le Floch-Prigent's lawyer said that incarcerating his client was a "shocking" overreaction, and claimed that Judge Joly was trying to demonstrate her judicial independence in the wake of the furore surrounding the Tiberi case. "The justice system wanted to show it was above all suspicion," said Olivier Metzner, after filing an appeal for the immediate release of his client which requires a ruling within three days.

"Here is a man who is in prison without having been able to explain what he did or did not do in the case," M Metzner said.

A former head of the Rhône-Poulenc chemicals group and the state-owned GDF gas company, M Le Floch-Prigent has denied any wrongdoing and claims that Elf was just one of several companies involved in a plan to save the textile company. "I have no intention of resigning," he said.

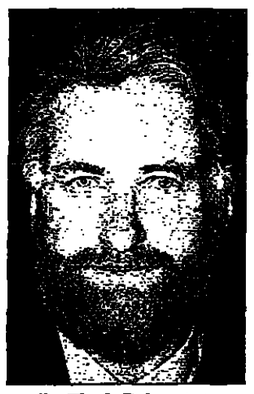
The current head of Elf, the privatised company with the highest turnover in France, has said that the money poured into Bidermann is now "almost certainly lost".

Last month M Le Floch-Prigent unveiled a plan to overhaul the SNCF which found favour with most of its 180,000 employees. Union leaders yesterday said they feared that the reconstruction project, under which the State will take on more than half the company's debts, could be fatally undermined by the imprisonment of the SNCF chief.

Political sources yesterday pointed out that he could hardly continue to negotiate the future of the SNCF from his jail cell and predicted that unless M Le Floch-Prigent is released within days the company's new chairman will have little choice but to stand down.

A pledge to stamp out corruption formed one of the main planks of M Chirac's presidential campaign last year. The Government has reacted to allegations of political interference by castigating the press and accusing magistrates of violating secrecy rules by leaking information to the media.

Judge Joly, who began her investigation two years ago and has a reputation as one of the toughest anti-corruption magistrates in France, was placed under police protection last month at her own request.



Le Floch-Prigent: a union favourite



Sandra Zilioli, a suspected bank robber, at a São Paulo police station. Brazil's press dubbed her "Sharon Stone", alleging a resemblance to the Hollywood star

Police pursue basic instinct

FROM REUTER IN SÃO PAULO

A 24-YEAR-OLD woman accused of robbing six banks at gunpoint and dubbed "Sharon Stone" for her looks, hair and tight outfits, was arrested in southeastern Brazil, police said.

Police chief Renato Vieira said Sandra Zilioli, 24, was among a band of robbers who went on a three-month spree and made off with close to $200,000 (£130,000) in the town of Campinas, 60 miles from São Paulo. "She would walk into a bank with her bag full of guns," he said. "When a metal detector went off, she would hold up a tape-player. That was her modus operandi."

Senhora Zilioli was arrested at her apartment on Tuesday, identified by witnesses and charged. Police recovered $4,000 (£2,500) and weapons, said the police chief. While the press has called Senhora Zilioli "Sharon Stone", Senhor Vieira said he could not see the resemblance of his suspect to the Hollywood star of *Basic Instinct*.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Killer 'was in Milat family'

Sydney: The man who killed seven backpackers, including two Britons, and kidnapped an eighth was almost certainly a member of Ivan Milat's family, the defence admitted yesterday (Roger Maynard writes).

As one of the longest and most sensational criminal trials in Australia's modern history drew to a close, the focus of attention shifted to the brothers of the man charged. Terry Martin, for the defence, admitted someone in the family was guilty, adding: "The question is who?"

Earlier the prosecution had told the jury that considering the possibility that another family member was involved did not mean that Ivan Milat was innocent.

Hutu threat

Johannesburg: A Hutu extremist organisation, People in Arms to Liberate Rwanda, has promised rewards to those killing Americans in the country. There is a £300 bonus on the US Ambassador's head.

Doctor fined

Paris: Dr Claude Gubler, author of a book disclosing secrets about the cancer that killed former President Mitterrand, was given a four-month suspended sentence and fined £7,500. *(AFP)*

Bodies retrieved

Sarajevo: Finnish experts under UN auspices ignored Bosnian Serb objections to recover at least nine bodies from a hill, believed to be Muslims killed escaping from Srebrenica last year. *(Reuter)*

China flood toll

Peking: Vast floods across four southern Chinese provinces, Guizhou, Zhejiang, Anhui and Jiangxi, have left 237 people dead, at least 3,708 injured and tens of thousands homeless. *(Reuter)*

Mafia tip-off

Reggio Calabria: Italian police arrested a chain-smoking escaped Mafia murderer who gave himself away with a pile of hundreds of cigarette ends thrown from a window of his hideaway. *(Reuter)*

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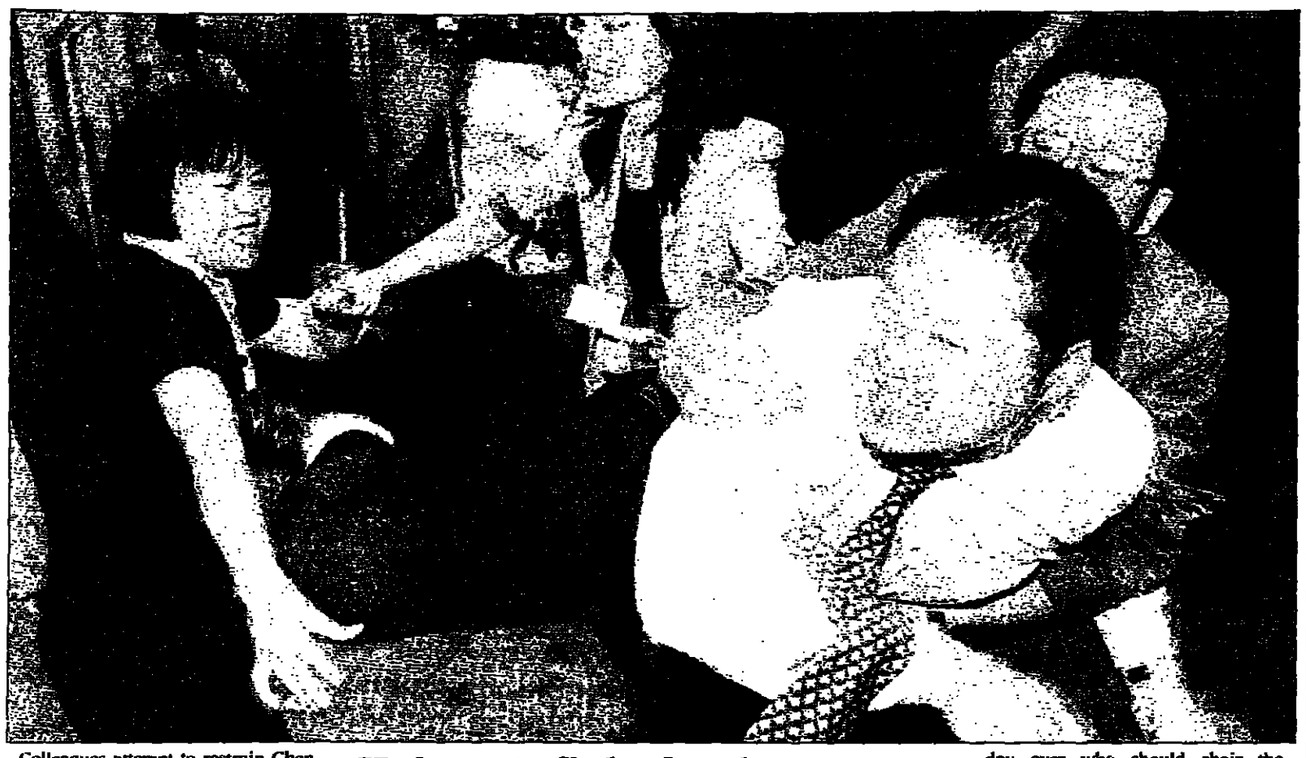
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Colleagues attempt to restrain Chen Tsang-hung, an MP of Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang, as he tries to kick Ting Yung-sun, left, of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party in the Taipei parliament yesterday. MPs also pulled opponents' hair and

Taiwan's fight for democracy

exchanged punches as brawling paralysed the assembly for the second day running. The 334-member assembly, elected last March, began a two-month session on Thursday to debate bringing the constitution into line with Taiwan's blossoming democracy. Fighting was renewed yesterday over who should chair the meeting. A dozen women opposition MPs, including Ms Ting, formed a human wall to prevent the majority Nationalists from taking the podium. The fracas ended when a recess was called. *(AP)*

Shaken House of Fahd moves slowly to shore up façade

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Dhahran bomb that killed 19 Americans has shaken Saudi Arabia, but the House of Saud will not fall. For all the jitters, unrest and grumbling, few Saudis want to see the removal of the dynasty that has brought them unprecedented wealth, power and opportunity. They just want it to rule the kingdom better.

Influential Saudi businessmen acknowledge that all is not well in the world's largest oil producer. They point to a rapid fall in incomes, rising prices for food and housing, huge government debts to private banks which consume about a fifth of the budget, a rise in unemployment to about 20 per cent, and a government machine that appears incapable of taking tough decisions.

The statistics give a recipe for revolution: average incomes are down by two-thirds, thousands of graduates are emerging from universities without jobs, recent budget cuts in subsidies and benefits have fallen disproportionately on the middle and poorer classes, and the 4 per cent birth rate is straining the overstretched social service network.

The sudden fall in wealth has exacerbated latent tribal divisions, and unrest is being exploited by obscurantist religious puritanism, which has a hold in the central and eastern provinces. The anger is fanned by invective from Iran denouncing the Royal Family.

Yet few see any imminent threat to the House of Saud, which has ruled undisputed for the past 64 years. "The Saudis are very peaceful people. The violent streak that is coming out in these bombings is for purely economic reasons," one commentator said. "The Royal Family has been seen as a unifying force. We have some who are corrupt, some who are ignorant. But they are not vindictive. Saudis look around at the rulers nearby and are glad they have the Sauds."

Many Saudis say, however, that the family is too secretive and unwilling to delegate responsibility, though few dare speak openly. Junior Cabinet ministers do not have authority to make decisions, and when the top man is away everything is left pending.

The main charge of the new technocrats, who studied in Europe and the United States, is that long-term economic planning is impossible. There is no reining in of spendthrift princes, no rationale behind prestige projects such as wheat production reliant on irrigation, which makes it five times more expensive than imported grain.

"They have spent generously — on arms, the religious establishments — but it turns out to be a liability. The new Islamic universities produce graduates who know only how to pray: they are almost unemployable," the frustrated head of one company said.

The Government has begun to respond to these complaints. Cabinet ministers who have held office for more than 20 years have been changed. The latest budget has tried to reduce the huge internal debt, removing many subsidies and curbing spending. There has been a crackdown on religious extremism, especially on firebrand preachers calling for a rejection of



King Fahd: under attack

Western materialism. A new policy to boost employment among nationals demands a 5 per cent increase in the employment of Saudi citizens at the expense of the huge expatriate community.

Still, there is little room for democracy. The new Consultative Assembly, due on a parliamentary visit to Britain next week, is in its infancy and cannot initiate legislation. There is no legitimate outlet for opposition.

US ponders retreat to safety of Saudi desert

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S 5,000 troops in Saudi Arabia could be heading into the desert as protection from bomb attacks.

The move is under consideration by William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, whose resignation has been demanded by leading Republicans over security lapses before last week's bombing that killed 19 Americans near Dhahran.

Mr Perry has also acknowledged the Pentagon no longer rules out cuts in its overall Saudi military strength if security threats persist. Earlier, President Clinton and Mr Perry had assured the Saudis that America would not be intimidated into changing its mission of support.

Most American forces in Saudi Arabia are air force personnel who maintain communications and patrol the no-fly zone over Iraq.

☐ **Bomb pointer:** American investigators have concluded that the Dhahran bomb contained 3,000lb of a rapid detonating explosive that has been used by the IRA. They also believe the terrorists had foreign backers, possibly from Iran.

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John Garrett on the future of British leisure

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Coppers' friend hunts Sumitomo's lost billions



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India force England on to back foot

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JULY 6 1996

Bellwinch takes on widow over policy payout

BY JASON NISSÉ

A BUILDING group is suing the widow of its former chief executive to prevent her from claiming the £601,600 life insurance policy payable when he died.

Bellwinch, which is based in Wembley, is trying to stop Jean Davies from receiving the payout from a Norwich Union death-in-service cover taken out on her husband, Ray, who died in June last year while still working for the company. Mr Davies is credited with saving the company from collapse.

The total payout due from the policy is £601,600. At the moment, that money is being held by Norwich Union and has not been paid out to Mrs Davies or to Bellwinch.

Speaking from her home in Devon, Mrs Davies said she was receiving the company pension to which she was clearly entitled and, along with Mr Davies's daughter, had received a payout from one of her husband's life insurance policies. Bellwinch is disputing a larger payout, which is being held in trust by Norwich Union.

According to the writ, issued by Allsop Wilkinson, Bellwinch's solicitors, the housebuilder claims that it should be paid out from the policy because it paid the premiums as part of the service contract agreed with the late Mr Davies. The premiums paid by Bellwinch were £10,194 a year.

It is claiming that the intention had always been that Bellwinch would be paid out from the policy and use the receipts to pay death benefits to Mrs Davies. It is saying that, at the very least, it is entitled to a share, totalling £364,000, of the policy payout.

The housebuilder is also suing William Reece Bidder, an executor of Mr Davies's estate, and Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, the insurance broker, which arranged the policy. Neither was available for comment and no one at Bellwinch's head office would discuss the dispute.

Mr Davies, who was 57 when he died, had been chief executive of Bellwinch for five years, in which time he had brought the housebuilder back from the brink of collapse. He was hired from Abbey, the plant hire and building group, in 1990, when Bellwinch, which had been a management buyout in the mid-1980s, was struggling because of overinvestment in property in London's Docklands.

Only a year after joining, Mr Davies was involved in a highly imaginative financial reconstruction that saved the company from receivership after its shares were suspended on the stock market in August 1991. Two of its banks, Midland and Royal Trust, were persuaded to cancel £10.5 million of loans in exchange for development land, and a third bank, TSB, struck a similar deal involving a site in Weymouth, Dorset, and £6.5 million.

Bellwinch also raised £3.3 million from shareholders, which put it on a stronger footing. After raising a further £6.5 million through a share issue a few years later, Bellwinch was able to refocus the business as a small, specialist housebuilder.

Pearl will pay out £1bn to investors

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

SHARES in Britannic, Refuge and United Friendly rose strongly yesterday after Pearl Assurance, the fellow life company, announced that shareholders will receive a payout of nearly £1 billion from the surplus in its life fund.

Pearl, which is wholly owned by Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP), will also pay a £315 million special bonus to with-profits policyholders "as a goodwill gesture". Pearl, which has been criticised in the past for poor performance, said that about two million with-profits life and pension policyholders would share in the total £350 million special bonus, to be divided 90:10 between policyholders and shareholders.

The surplus in the life fund, known as an orphan asset, has built up over the years because past profits have exceeded payouts to policyholders, and because shareholders have not always been given their maximum entitlement.

However, around 200,000 will be unhappy. These include those whose policies matured before Thursday and who will be excluded from the payout, as well as holders of general insurance policies or unit trust investments, who will receive nothing. A spokesman for Pearl said: "We are looking forward, not backward and those whose policies mature from now on will share in the payout."

Independent financial advisers expressed concern that former policyholders might have missed out on more generous bonuses because of conservative calculations in the past by Pearl's actuaries. Tim Cockerill, investment director with Whitechurch Securities, said: "Actuaries tend to take a long-term view and payouts are often cautious."

The year-long review means that AMP has recouped a large proportion of the £1.2 billion it paid for Pearl in 1989. Under the terms of the settlement, which have been agreed in principle by the Department of Trade and Industry, AMP will receive £918 million from life fund profits, plus the future surplus from without-profits business of £42 million, and an extra £35 million from the goodwill bonus.

Bonuses to Pearl policyholders will vary in size depending on the type of policy held, but a customer with a 25-year endowment started in 1975, with a sum assured of £6,000, will have an extra £246 added to their policy this year. A customer who started paying £300 a year towards a pension in 1987 could have £508 added to the value of their policy.

Britannic, meanwhile, is believed to be close to announcing a redistribution of its own surplus funds, which some analysts have valued at up to £1.6 billion. Shares in Britannic rose 43p to 766p. Brian Shaw, Britannic's general manager and actuary, declined to comment on the "price sensitive" issue.

Shares in Refuge whose talks with the DTI are expected to come to a conclusion this year, rose 15p to 473p. John Cudworth, chief executive, said he had "no idea when settlement will be reached". United Friendly, which paid out proceeds from its orphan estate last year, saw its shares leap 20p to 765p.

Legal & General, which has already paid bonuses to policyholders and shareholders, rose 6p to 672p, while Prudential, currently in negotiations with the DTI, rose 2p to 412p.

ADRIAN BROOKS



Richard Purdey, left, chairman of Merrydown, and Paul Millman, managing director, toast a return to profit after the cider company reported earnings of £2 million for the year to the end of March, against losses of £2.7 million previously. Tempus, page 30

US shares hit by rates fear

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN stocks and bonds plunged yesterday on fears of higher interest rates after news that the US unemployment rate had fallen to a six-year low. The Dow-Jones industrial average plunged 114.88 points to close at 5,588.14.

Non-farm jobs grew by 239,000 in June, after a jump of 365,000 in May. The unemployment rate fell from 5.6 per cent to 5.3 per cent, the lowest since June 1990.

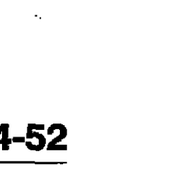
The news, only two days after the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) met and apparently decided not to raise US rates, surprised the markets. Wall Street economists had looked for a 150,000 rise in non-farm payrolls and for unemployment to drop only a little, to 5.5 per cent.

The benchmark Treasury long bond was down nearly three full points. Its yield jumped to 7.18 per cent, against 6.93 per cent on Wednesday. In London, the FT-SE 100 fell 31 points before recovering to close 17.4 lower, at 3,743.2.

Some economists argued that the FOMC would have tightened monetary policy if it had seen the jobs release.

Stock market, page 30

WEEKEND MONEY



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Anne Ashworth
on the next draw in the mutual lottery

BORROWING

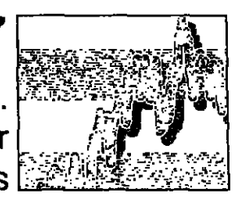


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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3743.2	(–17.4)
Yield	4.06%	
FT-SE A All share	1868.75	(–6.72)
Nikkei	22232.42	(–60.49)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5613.26	(–89.77)*
S&P Composite	661.13	(–11.27)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(unq)
Long Bond	85²⁄₃₂*	...
Yield	7.17%*	...

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5⁹⁄₁₆%	(5⁹⁄₁₆)
Life long gilt future (Sep)	106⁵⁄₃₂	(106¹⁵⁄₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5540*	(unq)
London:		
$	1.5551	(1.5603)
DM	2.3761	(2.3770)
FFr	8.0303	(8.0384)
SFr	1.9623	(1.9580)
Yen	172.43	(172.21)
£ Index	86.7	(86.8)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5303*	(unq)
FFr	5.1705*	...
SFr	1.2850*	...
Yen	110.89*	...
$ Index	97.6	(97.2)

Tokyo close Yen 110.62

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep)	$19.10	($19.00)

GOLD

London close	$381.75	(381.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Post Office says Treasury to blame for £50m decline

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Post Office, currently involved in a bitter pay dispute with its sorting office and delivery workers, suffered a £50 million fall in annual profits to £422 million.

The PO, announcing the setback yesterday, said "unprecedented" cash demands from the Government, which amount to £1 million for every working day, would severely restrict profits over the next three years and was to blame for next week's 1p rise in postage stamps.

Faced with falling profits and growing competition, Post Office leaders emphasised the importance of greater workforce flexibility, but refused to set a deadline on further talks this weekend with the main postal union on the teamworking dispute that has already led to two 24-hour strikes.

The Post Office said that the government cash call through the external financing limit was having a serious impact on its finances. The Treasury is looking for £925 million from the Post Office over the next three years, close to the entire amount paid to the Government over the past decade.

Describing the Treasury's requirements as "particularly exacting", Sir Michael Heron, chairman, said: "This is the biggest cash demand from the Treasury in the history of the Post Office." The rise in stamps will generate an extra £150 million of revenue a year.

Sir Michael said that a series of "harmful" industrial disputes had led to the loss of 62,000 working days in 1995 and had raised issues that "cannot be glossed over". Greater flexibility was needed in all Post Office businesses, in return for a fair-pay package.

John Roberts, chief executive, said all the businesses had met their financial targets. Reporting Royal Mail profits of £411 million, down from £449 million, he emphasised intensifying competition from couriers, faxes and E-mail.

Camelot director goes with bonus

BY JON ASHWORTH

ONE of Camelot's five executive directors is cashing in his chips and leaving the National Lottery operator — hard on the heels of the storm over "fat cat" pay. Norman Hawkins, director of commercial operations, will retire in September, weeks after securing his latest bonus.

Headhunters are seeking a replacement for Mr Hawkins, 59, one of the founding Camelot directors. Camelot denied that there was anything untoward in his departure, surprisingly early in the seven-year term of the lottery licence. It further denied rumours that a second director, David Rigg, director of communications, was also leaving the company. Mr Rigg has suffered ill health recently, but has returned to his duties after an absence of some weeks.

Camelot staff were told of Mr Hawkins's departure in a memo. The company said that he was leaving because he had reached retirement age, and said that it was always intended that he would leave before Camelot's licence ends in September 2001. Mr Hawkins will collect pay and bonuses due to him up until his departure, but will not be entitled to any additional "golden handshake".

Camelot directors been criticised for high pay and bonuses. Last month the company unveiled pre-tax profits of £77.5 million on sales of £5.2 billion in the year to March 31. Tim Holley, chief executive, earned £545,053, including bonus and pension contribution. He and his four executive colleagues shared £849,000 in salary and benefits, and £373,000 in bonuses. Mr Hawkins's pay was not disclosed — Camelot's annual report will give a breakdown — but he was paid a base salary of £109,000 to £135,000.

Camelot's directors were entitled to a further 50 per cent of base salary in bonuses — provided they remained in full-time employment until July 1. Mr Hawkins could have earned a bonus of up to £67,500, topped up with benefits and pension contributions.

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Gaming and leisure should not be left to chance

EXECUTIVE VOICE



John Garrett

I work in one of the largest and most popular British industries: leisure. It is a mass market, providing entertainment and recreation for ordinary people — millions of them, at thousands of sites around the country, every day of the year.

If the fashionable word "non-elitist" had not been invented already, I hope the Rank Organisation might have invented it. We don't offer grand opera — but we had a turnover of £755 million last year in the cinema, TV and video sectors. Last year, our bingo halls, casinos and multi-leisure centres were visited more than 30 million times by the British public.

We don't rip off our customers. We know it would be commercial madness if we tried to. We recognise that our customers are sensible people who deserve to be trusted to spend their money in the way they choose. But they aren't trusted. Not by Whitehall, which has been reviewing the regulation of an important part of the leisure industry, gaming.

Anyone operating in the leisure sector knows there have to be sensible regulations. Anyone with experience of running establishments where gaming takes place knows that there must be stringent rules to ensure total honesty and integrity are maintained. But a large part of the existing structure of regulation is certainly not needed.

Timothy Kirkhope, an arch-deregulator, and his team at the Home Office are now endeavouring to press forward the deregulation process for casinos and bingo clubs — many of which are run by blue-chip public companies.

He and his team recognise that there is a gaping need for the Gaming Act 1968 to be updated. Relaxation of the rules will be welcome, but the changes suggested in the Home Office consultation paper that was published earlier this year would still include strange anomalies.

It is proposed, for instance, that advertising of bingo halls and casinos should be legalised — but, while we would be allowed to advertise our casinos in *Yellow Pages*, we would not be able to advertise in the local paper. And while boxing promoters are allowed to use modern technology to link up cinemas so that a larger audience can enjoy a big fight, we would not be allowed to make bingo games more interesting by linking up our network of bingo halls electronically.

The 1968 Act contained much of the philosophy of national life half a century ago, when "the man in Whitehall knew best" and we lived in a Nanny State. Even today, Nanny instinctively feels that when ordinary people aren't safely locked up in their workplace, they get up to no good. When it comes to non-elitist activities, such as gaming, it seems the customer still cannot be trusted.

Fair enough, some of you may say — until you remember that something happened recently to knock the bottom out of the Nanny State argument. I refer to the National Lottery.

I have no quarrel with the National Lottery. It is no secret that Rank would have liked to be chosen to run it but we were pipped at the post. The point is that the National Lottery has completely overturned the once accepted view about the State's role in relation to gaming.

The Betting and Gaming Act 1968 provided that gaming properly regulated is legal, but there must be no stimulation of demand. The National Lottery is one of the biggest demand-stimulation operations ever mounted. It is a huge advertising spend. Its tickets are sold in more than 30,000 retail establishments, where anyone over 16 may buy tickets. This adds up to a massive part of leisure sector turnover — indeed the whole of the increase in leisure spending between 1994 and 1995 was accounted for by the lottery.

It does seem illogical that the same Government which approves of limitless multimillion-pound jackpots still proposes to impose restrictions on how much can be paid out in bingo prizes. Regulatory authorities seem unable to take a realistic overall view of the modern world of leisure. Millions of people now have spare cash to spend on their leisure. Again and again, however, bureaucracy lays a dead hand on the leisure industry when it tries to satisfy demand in response to normal market forces.

After careful study of the market, we are convinced there is a real demand for edge-of-town leisure developments. Ah, say the planners, that will encourage people to use their cars — why can't they take the bus to the town centre? But we are talking about people going out for an evening, when the rush hour is over, and the bus service is reduced after 6pm.

In this day and age, people would much rather drive to a modern, comfortable leisure complex out of town, where they know that they can leave their car in a safe, secure, well-lit car park. As with our gaming laws, our planning laws need a healthy dose of realism if the leisure industry is to take advantage of the opportunities open to it.

What lies ahead is an unprecedented opportunity for the leisure industry to provide a whole new range of leisure experiences for the customer, and in doing so to create jobs and boost earnings from tourism.

Freedom from over-regulation and over-restrictive planning regimes are the two best initiatives the Government can take to release the full potential of this industry and prepare it to become one of the great British success stories of the 21st century.

☐ *John Garrett is managing director of the Recreation Division, The Rank Organisation.*

Wickes troubles may involve 120 suppliers

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

INVESTIGATORS called in to study the books of Wickes, the DIY retailer, are concerned about the group's relationships with up to three quarters of its suppliers.

Serious accounting irregularities led Wickes to overstate last year's profits by as much as £30 million.

Price Waterhouse, the investigating auditor, and Linklaters & Paines, the solicitor, are focusing on relations with some 120 suppliers. They are expected to report their initial findings to the Wickes board late next week.

A new, accurate profit figure for the past year can then be issued, expected to be £25 million to £30 million lower than the £36.7 million initially reported. This will allow trading in the shares to restart. They were suspended after plummeting when the company announced that it had uncovered irregularities. It could also trigger a bid for the weakened group, which has yet to receive a formal approach.

Cantors and Harveys to merge

BY CLARE STEWART

CANTORS and Harveys Holdings, the home furnishing retailers, are to merge, creating a 320-store group, capitalised at £90 million and with combined sales of £140 million.

Robert Templeman, managing director of Harveys, said: "Overnight we have become a major player, and one of the largest multiple retailers in household textiles."

The new group, to be renamed H&C Furnishings, plans to expand to around 400 stores, opening high-street and out-of-town outlets. Although the new stores will create jobs, redundancies are expected from the merger. No decisions have yet been taken on job cuts, says the group, which in total employs 2,100 staff. The merger will take place via a reverse takeover by Cantors of Harveys, the Essex group in which Lord Harris, the carpets magnate, holds a 43 per cent stake.

The £55.4 million offer is made on the basis of 883 new Cantors shares for every 50 Harveys shares. The Cantors offer has been backed by directors and shareholders of Harveys who hold 67.5 per cent of its shares.

In addition, Cantors is raising £8.3 million through a one-for-three rights issue at 165p per share. The money will fund merger costs and provide additional working capital.

Cantors, based in Sheffield, has seen its high-street furniture stores squeezed by larger out-of-town retailers. Last year sales overall dropped 4.2 per cent, as high-street turnover fell 14.6 per cent. A number of exceptional items including property profits helped to increase profits, however, to £2.1 million (£1.6 million). The total dividend is held at 3p.

In the six months to February 29, Harveys reported profits of £3 million pre-tax on turnover of £49 million.

Nicholas Jeffrey, Cantors chairman, will become deputy chairman of the new group, with Sir Harry Solomon, chairman of Harveys, becoming non-executive chairman.

Tempus, page 30

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Trader happy with Sumitomo control

CREDIT LYONNAIS ROUSE (CLR), a ring trader at the London Metal Exchange, yesterday said it was satisfied that all credit lines and documents with Sumitomo Corp were not exclusively in the hands of Yasuo Hamanaka, the Japanese company's former head trader. CLR said that all credit lines extended to Sumitomo were fully advised after approval by Credit Lyonnais credit committees in London and Paris under normal internal procedures and Securities and Futures Authority (SFA) requirements.

The credit lines were "appropriately limited to the financial strength of Sumitomo". CLR said. In June, Sumitomo reported losses of $1.8 billion in unauthorised copper trades over ten years by Hamanaka, who has since been fired.

Working Week, page 29

Nuclear attraction

PRIVATE investors may end up owning close to half of British Energy, the UK's eight newest nuclear generators, as applications to share shops run ahead of those of the last privatisation — Railtrack. More than 125,000 people have applied to buy shares, advisers to the flotation said yesterday. At the same stage of the sell-off of Railtrack, 100,000 had applied. The public offer for shares closes on Wednesday. The institutional offer ends two days later. The bulk of public applications for privatisations tend to come in the final few days.

House building eases

HOUSING starts and completions were lower in May than a year before. Provisional figures from the Government estimate that 14,400 dwellings were started in May, against 16,300 in May, 1995; completions totalled 13,100 (16,900). In the latest three months, 43,200 dwellings were started, down 9 cent on the same months a year ago, and completions totalled 41,700, down 12 per cent. Seasonally adjusted figures show starts in the latest three months unchanged from the previous three, but completions down 10 per cent.

Ladbroke raises £67m

LADBROKE GROUP, the betting and hotels group, is raising £67.25 million through the sale to Capital & Income Group of a leasehold interest in a property in London's Farringdon Road, headquarters of the Merrill Lynch merchant bank. Ladbroke said the proceeds would be used to reduce debt and to provide funds for reinvestment in its core business. The book value of the property at December 31, 1995, was £67.15 million, with profit attributable through rental income of £6.2 million last year.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.06	1.92
Austria Sch	17.72	16.22
Belgium Fr	51.89	47.59
Canada $	2.225	2.065
Cyprus Cypf	0.764	0.709
Denmark Kr	9.73	8.93
Finland Mrk	7.81	7.15
France Fr	8.44	7.79
Germany Dm	2.53	2.32
Greece Dr	388	363
Hong Kong $	12.70	11.70
Iceland Fr	1.05	0.95
Israel Shk	5.35	4.70
Italy Lire	2494	2338
Japan Yen	186.60	170.60
Malta	0.804	0.549
Netherlds Gld	2.617	2.397
New Zealand $	2.42	2.20
Norway Kr	10.68	9.88
Portugal Esc	255.00	236.50
S Africa Rd	7.38	6.56
Spain Pta	206.50	193.50
Sweden Kr	11.00	10.20
Switzerland Fr	2.08	1.91
Turkey Lire	132616	1346718
USA $	1.655	1.525

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates for travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The businessman who built Blockbuster into an $8bn video rental chain wants to acquire Michael Ashcroft's ADT. An exclusive interview with the wheeler-dealer Wall Street calls Goldfinger — Wayne Huizenga . . .

Business Focus, The Sunday Times tomorrow

OUR £20 MILLION RE-INVESTMENT ON MERSEYSIDE IS DOWN TO THE QUALITY OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE

Attracting major companies is one way to test the mettle of an area.

But the ultimate compliment is when a company is so impressed it increases its investment there.

So thanks, Kodak, for the compliment.

After nearly 50 years on Merseyside, the American giant decided to re-invest and expand here, making it their biggest chemicals operation in Europe. They have found the operation to have one of the most productive workforces of any of their plants in Europe, and the level of job applicants is always of the highest quality.

"There is a sense of energy and 'can-do' mentality in our workforce which mirrors our own philosophy."

So what's so special about Merseyside? The grants at local, national and European Union levels? Not one but three Training and Enterprise Councils? The number of good sites? One of the most sophisticated telecommunications systems in Europe?
The co-operation between new and existing investors to pool their knowledge of the region?

Well, yes, yes, yes, yes and yes.

But there's something on Merseyside only Merseyside can ever have - one and a half million Merseysiders.

As existing investors like Barclays, Ford, QVC and General Motors have discovered, the people here have adaptability and enthusiasm running in their veins.

They've taken to training and retraining with a vengeance. Contributing to productivity levels that are 12% higher than the national average.

"New working practices have been implemented quickly and efficiently."

And the workforce at Kodak? They've an enviable reputation for meeting quality standards and adopting new management systems.

For instance, a new business development of supplying photographic materials to hundreds of mini-labs throughout the UK has already achieved a Perfect Delivery level of 98% OTIFNE (On Time, In Full, No Errors) when 90% is regarded as excellent. They are not however resting on their laurels as they strive for a perfect 100%.

That's why Kodak has poured an extra £20 million into their Kirkby plant in the last 18 months.

So whether you're in the photographic business or not, one thing's for certain.

Developing companies need look no further than Merseyside.



IVON CARNALL
FACTORY MANAGER, KODAK

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APR variable and typical and calculated on the assumption that the mortgage rate applicable during the fixed rate period (which will run from the date interest is first charged in respect of the mortgage) will apply for the full term of the loan. However from 1.7.2001, the Society's prevailing standard variable mortgage rate will, in fact, apply. These terms apply only where a written offer of advance was issued on or after 28.6.96 and the mortgage completed by 31.10.96. Typical example, based on an interest only loan, an interest rate of 7.75% 8.1% APR and a purchase price of £90,000, a couple taking out a mortgage of £65,000 over 25 years where the amount of the advance is 72% of the Society's valuation of the property) would pay interest of £419.80 per month gross (300 payments) Valuer's fee £175. Application fee £245. Solicitor's mortgage charges £126. Deeds Administration Fee payable on redemption £50 and a single repayment of capital of £65,000. Total amount payable £191,536.00, 7.75%, 8.1% APR. A first charge over your property will be required as security. For interest only loans, you are advised to arrange a suitable repayment vehicle to repay the capital at the end of the mortgage term. An indemnity policy, for which you will need to pay an arrangement fee, will be required where the mortgage exceeds the Society's normal maximum percentage advance of 75%. If the mortgage is either redeemed (in full or in part) or transferred to another scheme before 1.7.2002, a fee equivalent to 6 months' interest at the rate payable at the time of repayment will be charged. All mortgages are subject to status, valuation and a minimum age of 18. A written quotation is available on request from Woolwich Direct, PO Box 600, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6UE. Woolwich Direct is a service provided by Woolwich Building Society which represents only the Woolwich Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance and unit trust business.

A WORKING WEEK FOR: GEORGE STAPLE

Coppers' friend hunts Sumitomo's lost billions

Robert Miller meets the man whose staple diet is catching global fraudsters in the act

GEORGE Staple is an unlikely fraud-buster. Tall, slim and with urbane good looks, the director of Britain's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) might be more at home amid the ivory towers of academia than sitting on the ninth floor of a hurly-burly central London office which, in common with its fellow civil investigators, is currently wrestling with the machinations of the world's copper markets. Sumitomo, the Japanese conglomerate, appears to have lost somewhere between $1.8 billion and $3 billion.

What the SFO, and for that matter the FBI in America and the Ministry of Justice in Japan, want to establish is whether Sumitomo's losses were the result of a massive and complex fraud spanning the global copper markets, with London as its centre. Or were they, as has been alleged, produced by one man, Yasuo Hamanaka, Sumitomo's former chief copper trader?

As you would expect from a man who has spent his working life in the legal profession, rising to become senior litigation partner at Clifford Chance, one of the City's top law firms, Staple is reluctant to speculate on the possible outcome of "Operation Copper". To do so now could jeopardise any future prosecution.

In the same way, mention of high-profile SFO trials such as Guinness, still rumbling on in the European courts, Maxwell, Roger Levitt, for which Staple received a roasting from the Commons Treasury Select Committee, Brent Walker and Blue Arrow elicit the response on prosecutions in general that "nobody has the monopoly on wisdom. We take some very difficult decisions based on the facts before us. In every case we try to satisfy ourselves on the evidence we have that there is a realistic prospect of a conviction before going to court. At the end of the day, that is a judgment we take at a relatively early stage. Secondly, we must consider whether it is in the public interest to prosecute. That is the basis on which all our cases proceed."

Reverting back to copper, Staple, 56 and father of four aged between 27 and 17, says: "The copper investigation is in a sense a classic case for us. It involves a number of jurisdictions, national and market sensitivities and other very complex issues."

The SFO is believed to have been passed the Sumitomo copper file at one of the regular meetings it has with the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the City's top civil watchdog that is conducting its own investigation into the scandal. These are early days, insists Staple, in what promises to be a lengthy process. Even if the fraud office concludes that there is no case to answer, the evidence it has gathered could be offered to prosecutors in other countries.

Staple's week began with an extensive debrief with Andrew Jackson, the in-house SFO lawyer assigned to the case and who returned last Sunday from a trip to Japan, where he had meetings with officials from the Ministry of Justice as well as Sumitomo. The copper investigation is also a chance for Staple to test the new command structure that he introduced at Easter. A lawyer heads each investigation and works with a forensic accountant, in this case Michael O'Brien Kenney, who was on the SFO's Barings case, and a police officer who in this instance is Detective Chief Inspector Michael Fox from the City of London fraud squad. The other 78 cases on the SFO's books are run on similar lines. The constantly changing element is the police who are drafted in from the local or regional fraud squad in whichever part of the country the alleged offence took place. Not having its own police force to work with the in-house lawyers and accountants, and to be interchangeable as needs dictate, is perhaps the SFO's weakest point. Staple says: "I have lawyers and accountants but the other major part of the job is the police. It would be helpful to have police, not necessarily to join the SFO as a permanent career, but perhaps for eight years or so. We have had some excellent joint investigations with fraud squads around the country but that really is no substitute for having police officers directly accountable to the SFO."

Since it was spawned by the Criminal Justice Act 1987, the SFO has been the target of constant criticism. From the early days, that noted SFO-watcher, *Slicker*, of *Private Eye*, dubbed it the Serious Farce Office, with good reason, while others called it the Seriously Flawed Office. Many fraud squad officers felt — and in some quarters still do — that the SFO is run by bean-counters and pen-pushers who believe they can cope without the police. One experienced officer said of the fraud office: "We don't have the academic approach to the job as they do at the SFO, what we do out here is for real."

On the rumblings about events that took place under John Wood and later Barbara Mills, QC, now Director of Public Prosecutions, Staple notes that his predecessors were "feeling their way through uncharted terrrritory". Before the Criminal Justice Act and its sister legislation, the Financial Services Act 1986, areas of the City appeared, to outsiders at least, as very much a free-for-all. But in the late Eighties, the world's stock markets went electronic and London was at the centre of a global 24-hour trading cycle. To attract the right sort of business, and to protect private investors, the City had to be seen as a well-supervised and properly regulated market — hence the SFO and the SIB and its fellow watchdogs.

But the SFO is undergoing a rehabilitation based on sound statistical evidence and a far greater willingness to be open about its role in fighting fraud. Its success rate in prosecutions is impressive given the complex nature of fraud. In some 79 per cent of all SFO cases that reach the courts at least one defendant has been convicted, usually the principle one, while overall, 63 per cent of all defendants prosecuted since April 1988 have been convicted.

The recent extension to the SFO's powers, which removes a witness's right to silence under Section 2 of the Act, has been used to foster better links with overseas agencies, a prerequisite in the fight against international fraudsters.

Many have criticised the Section 2 powers as draconian. Staple says some witnesses, such as bankers bound by professional codes of confidentiality, welcome the chance to give evidence when confronted with a section 2 notice.

On the question of juries, the SFO director is circumspect on whether complex trials such as those undertaken by the fraud office should have specially selected jurors or panels to assess the evidence. He points out that a Royal Commission three years ago called for more research into how juries reach their verdicts, yet there has been little action to date.

The Haileybury-educated Staple, who admits to watching Arsenal matches with his two sons, accepts that his job will place him in the spotlight, though he added wistfully that "obscurity is lovely". Of his rough ride with MPs over the Levitt cases, he argues that it would be helpful if the committee had indicated some of the questions they wanted to ask beforehand — this would have led to better and more precise answers being given.

Nor has Staple, who on a salary of £104,000, took a significant paycut to come to his current job, which he leaves next April, shrunk from difficult decisions. Over the Nick Leeson extradition case, he insisted, in the face of calls for the rogue trader to be brought back to the UK, that the fraud took place in a foreign jurisdiction and that Singapore was the appropriate place for the trial.

As we wrapped up Staple's working week with a photo session, someone asked whether he was happy with the pictures. He replied: "I haven't seen them and it doesn't matter really. If *The Times* want to write a nasty article they'll run a nasty picture. If they want to write a nice one they'll use a nice picture." Future SFO historians might well conclude that Staple deserves a sympathetic viewing.

PETER TREVNOR



George Staple faces painstaking research in a complex investigation that spans the global copper market

HIDDEN ASSETS

Inspiring collection free of investment tag

When Société Générale moved into its new London headquarters on the ninth and tenth floors of Exchange House in Broadgate in 1990, Roger Wellesley-Smith, then an executive director of the company and responsible for the move, judged that an office interior designed around a collection of inspirational contemporary art would be appropriate. He had £100,000 to spend and needed to acquire roughly one hundred works to fill the space.

He approached Long & Ryle, the art gallery in Pimlico specialising in corporate collections, who took on the commission with Pringle Brandon, the architects.

"The commission turned into rather a wonderful and unusual act of patronage towards emerging young artists," says Sarah Long, of the gallery. "The bank wanted a collection that would reflect the nature of its business. The message was young, progressive and international. A lot of banks play very safe when it comes to corporate art collecting, but with Société Générale we were able find young artists' works at degree shows and put together a collection that was unusual."

Levels of risk tolerance are famously low among London's venerable old banks, but just as Société Générale takes considered risks every day in the world's currency and fixed-income markets, so it has taken some bold risks in its choice of art. In the bank's entrance hall hangs a series of vast and striking works by Riccardo Cinalli, the Italian artist, in which naked and semi-clothed men and women ten-feet tall caper around a neo-classical background of columns, urns and foliage.



The message is progressive

"The works are built up with layer upon layer of tissue papers. They were specially commissioned for the building," says Chris Brandon, the architect. "We were concerned that the nudity on such a large scale and right at the entrance might raise eyebrows, but it has been amazingly well received."

Mr Wellesley-Smith clearly took some getting used to the idea. "The first time I saw Riccardo's work, I was fairly stunned, even with a glass of champagne in the Long & Ryle gallery. It can evoke surprisingly powerful moods with its strong shapes and colours. But it incorporated an element of neo-classicism with contemporary ideas, which we hope sums up the image of Société Générale. We didn't want anything wishy-washy; we wanted to give out a strong feeling of progress and I think this collection does so."

He warmed to the Cinallis and then approved a wide selection of other works by young artists. "A couple of the pieces put me off initially, but I love our final choice. It's terribly exciting and ranges so enormously."

In the dealing room, which sits literally above the railway tracks of Liverpool Street Station and is one of the largest in Europe, Long & Ryle commissioned Alison Lambert to paint a series of friezes which hang suspended from the ceiling. As a result dealers beaver away beneath a brightly coloured frieze of capital cities, barely noticing its presence.

It is the directors and senior executives who perhaps appreciate the collection most, as they plot strategy in boardrooms hung with strikingly bright oils by Vanda Harvey and Lucy Ross.

"The basic architectural interiors are very simple so as not to detract from the pictures," says Mr Brandon. But what best released the collection from the burden of high expense and from pressures to conform was the broad-mindedness of the bank and the decision that the art was not to be bought primarily with investment in mind. The result is refreshing and inspiring.

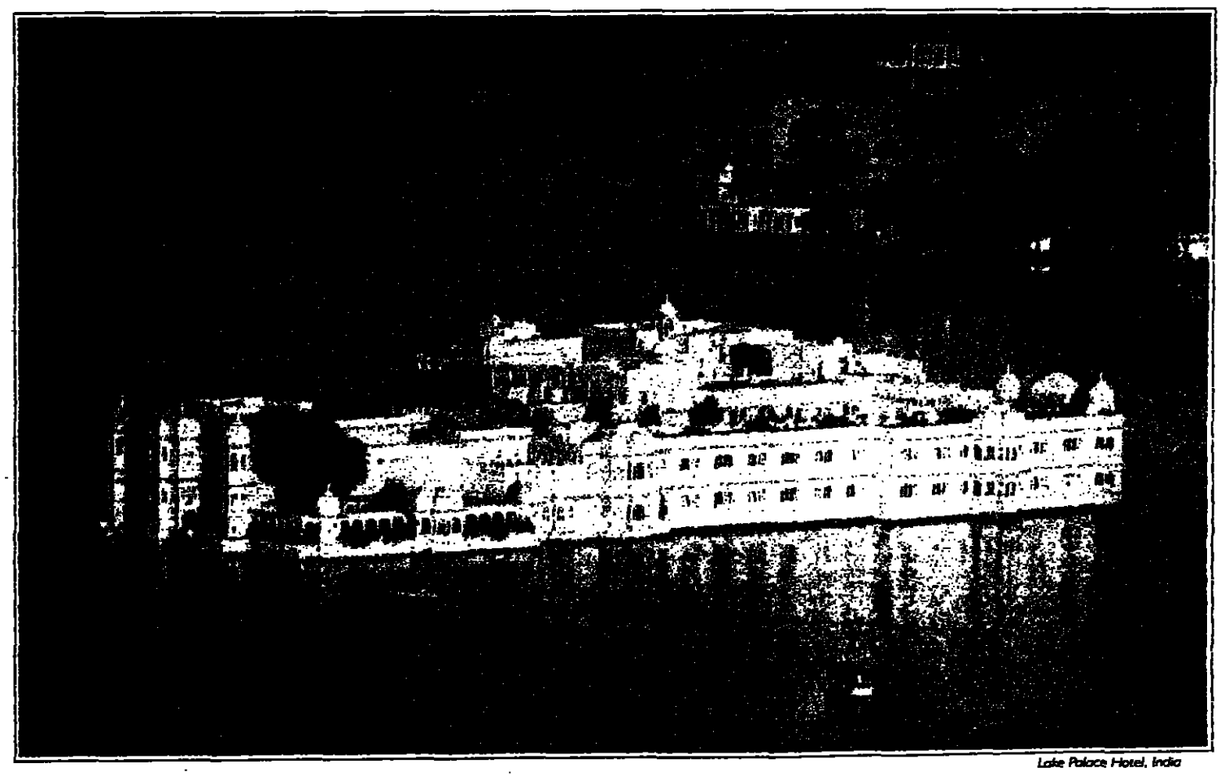
JOANNA PITMAN

When you stay at a grand hotel,

the exterior is elegant,

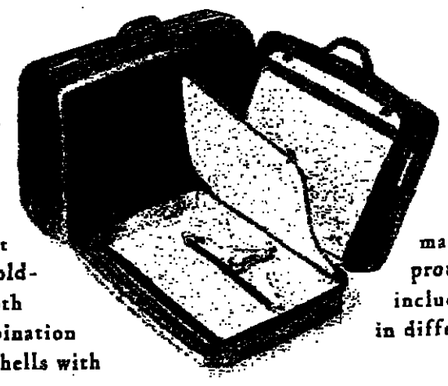
the interior is luxurious,

the ambiance is refined.



Lake Palace Hotel, India

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STOCK MARKET  OLIVER AUGUST

Morning surge halted by transatlantic shock

TRADERS came back from their end-of-week lunches to be confronted by a nasty surprise — US employment numbers had come in stronger than expected, prompting renewed fears that the Fed would tighten the interest rate screws. In June the US unemployment rate dipped to a six-year low of 5.3 per cent from 5.6 per cent in May.

Phil Orlando, chief investment officer at Value Line Asset Management, said: "We've got a number that clearly brings the Fed closer to a bias toward raising interest rates." Hildegard Zagorski, a market analyst at Prudential Securities, said: "The really worrying number is the hourly earnings number which they say is the strongest in 30 years."

After rising slowly during the morning the FT-SE 100 index nose-dived after the US announcement, ending at 3,743.2, down 17.4.

The day started with a surge in an otherwise sedate market, led by futures trading encouraged by talk of an autumn general election. This led dealers to anticipate a further cut in UK interest rates.

Bank of Scotland shares rose in a firm bank sector on Friday, with dealers citing buying interest ahead of presentations to investors next week to publicise the sale of Standard Life's 32 per cent stake in the group.

"We've seen some good buying ahead of the disposal of the Standard Life stake," one dealer said. The shares were up 5p at 241p with more than two million shares exchanged.

Morgan Stanley was the latest broker to turn positive on **HSBC**, the banking group, with the US house advising clients to buy the stock up to £12.00 But the stock closed 10p down at £10.38.

Hopes of an early launch of 200 new channels and talk of positive comment from SBC Warburg pushed **BSkyB**, the satellite broadcaster, has a 40 per cent stake, 9p higher at 453p.

News of the US Food and Drug Administration's marketing approval for its Kadian chronic pain drug continues to underpin **Zeneca**, the pharmaceuticals company, up 23p at 1464p. Zeneca estimates that the US market alone for cancer pain products is around $385 million a year.

Kadian is the first oral morphine capsule in the US that offers the option of 24-hour pain control with a single dose. Confirmation that the cut in cover price charges at both *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror* is only a "one-off" failed to dent fears of a resumption of the newspaper price wars. **United News & Media** slumped 4p to 666p, while **Mirror Group** eased 3p to 203p.

An upbeat trading statement saw **Redland**, the construction group, firm 6p to 408p, with a "sympathy effect" at RMC which gained 14p to £10.50. Redland said: "The difficult conditions within the industry were seriously aggravated by the appalling weather conditions during the winter throughout Europe."

Eurotherm, the electronic equipment group, was among the major second-line gainers, up 29p at 544p, recovering some of the ground lost yesterday after the resignation of its chief executive. "People thought the shares had undergone too much of a fall on just one man leaving," said one dealer. The shares plunged 71p to 515p on Thursday after Claes Hultman resigned following a boardroom rift.

Analysts said Mr Hultman was widely credited with the group's revival over the past five years.

Manchester United bought two Norwegian internationals, Ronnie Johnsen and Ole Gunnar Solsjkar, for a total of £2.7 million. Centre-back Johnsen has joined from Besiktas, the Turkish side, on a five-year deal for £1.2 million with striker Soljskar moving from Molde for £1.5 million. Despite fans' enthusiasm, the markets were not convinced. Shares closed 7p down at 455p.

Shares of **Osborne & Little**, the fabrics and wallpapers company, rose after the exchange of asset purchase and licence agreements with Liberty. They were up 38p at 668p. Osborne & Little is acquiring stock but also two leases and the benefit of the distribution and agency agreements.

UDO Holdings, the reprographic services group, was down 30p at 211p after a profits warning. UDO's interim results had highlighted the problems in the construction industry but reported signs that the steady decline in demand for design engineering equipment and supplies was slowing. This improvement has not continued and as a result pre-tax profits will be below market expectations.

Shares of **Britannic**, the life assurance company, were lifted by Pearl's deal with the DTI on orphan assets, closing at 766p, up 43p. Pearl is to pay a £350 million special bonus after agreeing a deal on the ownership of its long-term life funds. Legal & General and United Friendly have already concluded similar deals with the DTI on the ownership of orphan assets.

The **Ladbroke Group**, whose activities range from hotels to betting shops, announced the £67 million sale of its long leasehold interest in what was known as Smith New Court House in the City, currently occupied by Merrill Lynch. The proceeds will be used to reduce group debt and provide funds for reinvestment in the group's core businesses. Shares rose 2½p, closing at 188p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: The US employment figures were again the main event in the gilts markets. Futures dropped more than half a point but, with Treasury bond futures plunging more than two points after the non-farm payroll data, that represented a strong performance. "Gilts have held up well," said David Coleman, chief economist at CIBC Wood Gundy.

UK Government bonds finished lower across the board. The 7 per cent 2001 issue was £$^{5}/_{16}$ lower on the day at £$98^{7}/_{32}$, where it yields 7.39 per cent. The $7^{1}/_{2}$ per cent 2006 issue was £$^{15}/_{32}$ lower on the day at £$96^{25}/_{32}$ for a yield of 7.95 per cent.

☐ **NEW YORK**: The Dow Jones industrial average fell 89.77 points to 5,613.26 by midday after being more than 120 points off at one time.



Manchester United shares did not reflect fans' enthusiasm

Glaxo Wellcome could have a very day on Monday with the opening of the biggest and most optimistic International Aids Conference. Glaxo, which fell 8½p to 881p, is probably the only clear front-runner in the race for a treatment because it is the only one that has the potential to assemble all the pieces of the puzzle.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Psion	440p	+90p	To bid for Amstrad
ADT	£13.63	+208p	Merger with Republic Inds
Abbey National	585p	+44p	N&P deal nears completion
Britannic	766p	+50p	Payout hopes for shareholders
Cordiant	115p	+6	Growth in new business
Macallan-Glenlivet	157p	-30p	Disappointing bid terms
Eurotherm	544p	-46	Chief executive to leave
Liberty Int'l	357p	-20p	Minorco sells stake
Hanson	172p	-8½p	Demerger fears

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5613.26 (-89.77)
S&P Composite 661.13 (-11.27)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 22232.42 (-60.49)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11177.13 (-4.69)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 556.93 (-4.03)

Sydney:
AO 2230.8 (+5.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2583.49 (+6.10)

Singapore:
Straits 2258.96 (-9.35)

Brussels:
General 9584.78 (-44.18)

Paris:
CAC-40 2098.79 (-28.02)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 900.80 (-5.00)

London:

FT 30	2743.9 (-17.5)
FT 100	3743.2 (-17.4)
FT-SE Mid 250	4367.2 (3.9)
FT-SE-A 350	1884.8 (7.2)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1700.35 (9.43)
FT A All-Share	1866.75 (-6.72)
FT Non Financials	1987.94 (-7.26)
FT Fixed Interest	112.48 (-0.04)
FT Govt Secs	92.69 (-0.33)
Bargains	31420
SEAQ Volume	677.3m
USM (Datastrm)	218.10 (-0.46)
US$	1.5595 (-0.0049)
German Mark	2.3773 (+0.0002)
Exchange Index	86.7 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
ECU	1.2382
SDR	1.0808
RPI	152.9 May (2.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	152.5 May (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

AFA Systems (120)	136	...
Carlisle Wts	8¼	+ ¼
Circle Comms (170)	183	...
City Technology	215	- 1
Concurrent Techn	18	+ 1
Dringys of Bath	4	...
Fibernet Group (100)	123	...
Fieldens (60)	61	...
Gold Mines Sardinia	21	+ 1
Gold Mns Sard Wts	12	...
IES (285)	255xd	- 10
IES Wts	240	- 10
Independent Brit Hl	78xd	+ 5
Intelligent Envs (94)	81	- 2
Jarvis Hotels (175)	172	- 2
Lands Improvement	122	...
Matrix Healthcare	110	...
NECA	18	...
Pace Micro Tech	190	...
SEA Multimedia (70)	73	...
Sinclair Montrose	172	+ 5
Solid State Supplies	91	...
Staffware (225)	284	- 3
Sun Life & Provincia	222	...
Theo Fennell (118)	111	...
Vocalis Group (95)	114	+ 1
Whittard of Chelsea	150	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allen n/p (250)	10	...
British Biotech n/p	305	...
Cowie n/p (355)	41	...
Dixon Motors n/p	43	...
Doeflex n/p (230)	38	- 6
Greene King n/p	104	...
Independnt Nws n/p	15	...
Jhnstn Press n/p	10	...
Mackie Intl n/p (275)	13	...
Orbis n/p (40)	5	...
Parrco n/p (245)	43	- 1
Vardy n/p (300)	22	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Osborne & Little	668p (+38p)
Admiral	280p (+10p)
Utd Friendly	765p (+20p)

FALLS:

Filtronic Com	295p (-10p)
Gen Accident	634p (-12p)
ICI	777p (-13p)
Grosvenor Inns	244p (-13p)

Closing Prices Page 43

TEMPUS

Lack of Independence

INVESTORS who doubt the influence of American markets on the rest of the world need only look at yesterday's Europe-wide share price falls, caused almost entirely by slightly more Americans getting a job during June.

Wall Street came back from Independence Day holiday expecting 166,000 more jobs to have been created in the past month but found that non-farm payrolls had increased by 239,000 in June. Fears rose that the Federal Reserve, America's central bank, would raise rates at its next Open Market Committee meeting on August 20. This seemed a fitting end to a week that has seen markets pulled each way by thoughts on whether or not there would be a rise at the July meeting, held last Wednesday.

Economists on Wall Street said that the Fed had apparently suffered from a failure in the crystal ball department. "Had they seen these figures they would have raised the rate on Wednesday" was the general cry. The White House, for its part, saw no sign of inflation.

Wall Street, however, expects Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, to prepare the markets for a rate increase during testimony to the Senate Banking Committee on July 18. Economists can see nothing but wage and price pressures in America.

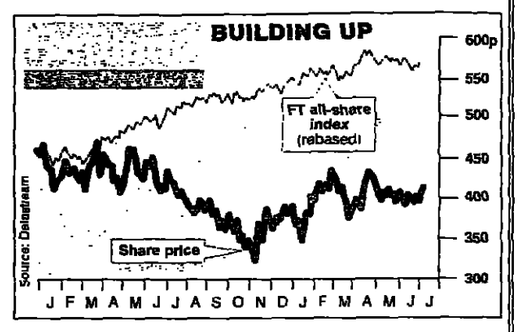
What does it all mean for investors? America is not expected to tighten money as much in the present economic cycle as it did in 1994 but on stock markets it would be wisest to assume that the best of the party is now over. British analysts still expect to see some gains in the UK, spurred by faster economic growth and faster growth in company profits, before the bulls finally run out of steam.

Redland

SO nice to hear some good news from Redland for a change, but investors should not get carried away. In spite of yesterday's unexpectedly upbeat trading statement, the shares, which closed up 6p at 408p, are fully valued.

An update on trading at the company's annual meeting in May painted a truly dismal picture of markets, particularly in Britain and Germany, after a wretched winter. As spring blossomed, it was inevitable that conditions would quickly improve, with deferred construction projects finally getting under way.

Redland is still far from the promised land. In the UK, volumes of concrete roof tiles and aggregates were down by 2 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively, in April and May, against the same two months of the previous year. Brick volumes are up by just 2 per cent. In Germany, demand for concrete roof tiles and chimneys, which decreased by 47 per cent and 37 per cent, respectively, in the first quarter, has only just recovered to last year's levels. Real growth is negligible, and, given the fragile state of the German economy, is unlikely to improve in the short term. The picture is much the same in France and The Netherlands, although America shows promise. With the shares on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 13, investors should not chase them higher until the impact of April's restructuring of the European roof tile business becomes clearer.



Merrydown

THE fad for fruit-flavoured alcoholic drinks has rescued Merrydown, the cider maker, from near oblivion. Two years ago, the future looked bleak as the debt-laden company struggled to maintain a hold in a market being carved up by Bulmer and Matthew Clark.

The introduction of Two Dogs revolutionised Merrydown's fortunes, although some of the early success has since been stolen by the Bass-produced rival, Hooper's Hooch. However, Two Dogs remains second in this new market. Decent marketing support and a successful launch in the US and the rest of Europe should continue to yield handsome returns. The real problem for Merrydown is working out whether this new market will prove to be a passing craze.

Two Dogs is, however, obscuring Merrydown's difficulties in its traditional markets. Its cider volumes have increased ahead of a growing market, but much of the growth is dependent on an exclusive on-trade deal with Whitbread that squeezes margins. The 50 per cent increase in cider duty later this year will catch all of Merrydown's brands, apart from its draught cider.

Two Dogs should help Merrydown to restore its balance sheet, allowing more room for flexibility in the future. However, until the company announces in September how it will deal with the duty increase, buyers of the shares risk waking up with a hangover.

Cantors

LIFESTYLE shopping is what Robert Templeman, of Harveys, promises customers of the new H&C Furnishings, offering co-ordinated furniture and furnishings under one roof.

An attractive return is the promise for shareholders if the expected benefits of the merger flow through. On paper, it looks a good fit. There is almost no overlap in retail sites, there are significant cost savings to be made, and the joint product range will even out the seasonal peaks in trade. Furniture sales are strong in the autumn and flat in the winter, when soft furnishings come into their own.

Textiles, which will be the largest product area, offer attractive margins.

Although still some way behind market leaders such as MFI and Courts, the merged group will be well placed to take market share from the large number of independent retailers.

Currently, Harveys is averaging sales per square foot of £150, compared to £70 at Cantors. Although the new company estimates that it will take a year to bed down the merger, analysts will be watching to see how quickly the management can close the sales gap and drive the business forward.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Jul	1050-1045	Sep	1081-1077
Sep	1070-1069	Dec	1090-1087
Dec	1092-1096	Mar	1102-1095
Mar	1092-1090	May	1110-1095
May	1095-1094		
Jul	1071-1070	Volume: 1049	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jul	1665 SLR	Mar	1543-1535
Sep	1640-1638	May	1532-1531
Nov	1602-1600	Jul	1540-1526
Jan	1575-1574	Volume: 2311	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	335.5-35.0
Spot: 341.8		May	332.7-32.0
Aug	330.0-30.0	Aug	330.0-28.0
Oct	353.0-52.5	Oct	316.0-11.0
Dec	340.4-40.0	Volume: 702	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on July 4

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	123.80	112.53	102.33
+/-	+2.77	+0.89	+1.05
Eng/Wales	123.56	112.67	101.82
+/-	+2.98	+0.42	+1.14
No.	+14.0	+11.0	+19.03
Scotland	117.94	110.59	104.13
+/-	-7.32	-1.15	+0.95
(%)	n/c	+5.0	+15.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	20.00	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Aug)	19.75	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Sep)	19.10	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Aug)	n/a	..
W Texas Intermediate (Sep)	..	..

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	208 (+3)	210 (+4)
Grasoil EEC	183 (+2)	186 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	86 (n/c)	88 (n/c)
Naphtha	186 (+5)	188 (+5)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jul	170.50-170.75	Oct	170.00-170.25
Aug	173.25-173.50	Nov	169.00-169.25
Sep	171.00-171.25	Vol: 14522	

BRENT ($.00psm)

Aug	19.73-19.75	Nov	18.19-18.22
Sep	19.10-19.12	Dec	17.56 SLR
Oct	18.68-18.66	Vol: 19524	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jul	109.75	Sep	104.00
Sep	110.50	Nov	105.00
Nov	112.50	Jan	107.85
Jan	114.50	Mar	109.40
Mar	116.50	May	111.75
Volume: 177		Volume: 68	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	85.0
Mar	..	110.0
Apr	129.5	123.50
	Volume: 62	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Ctf p/k)

Aug 92.75-92.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd 50/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jul 96	1123	1111	1111
Aug 96	1110	1100	1104
Sep 96	1160	1160	1160
Oct 96	1225	1215	1215
Vol: 640 lots		Open Interest: 4227	
	Index 1157.49		

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 1954.0-1955.0	3mth: 1903.0-1905.0	Vol: 1045350
Lead ($/tonne)	785.00-786.00	792.00-793.00	116225
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1005.0-1006.0	1033.0-1033.5	271675
Tin ($/tonne)	6570.0-6580.0	6480.0-6410.0	240850
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1475.0-1476.0	1511.0-1511.5	85455a
Nickel ($/tonne)	7550.0-7560.0	7660.0-7665.0	27876

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Sep 96	3775.0	3798.0	3715.0	3738.0	30972
Previous open interest: 59855	Dec 96	3793.0	3803.0	3746.0	3758.0	257
FT-SE 250	Sep 96				4360.0	0
Previous open interest: 3740	Dec 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Sep 96	94.28	94.28	94.22	94.25	14082
Previous open interest: 373585	Dec 96	94.15	94.16	94.08	94.10	28974
	Mar 97	93.93	93.94	93.75	93.77	9880
Three Mth Euro Yen	Dec 96	98.78	98.78	98.70	98.70	2181
	Mar 97	98.41	98.41	98.40	98.40	140
Three Mth Euro DM	Sep 96	96.55	96.56	96.48	96.53	34817
Previous open interest: 979714	Dec 96	96.33	96.33	96.25	96.29	45431
Long Gilt	Sep 96	106.25	107.00	105.28	106.03	55915
Previous open interest: 123863	Dec 96				105.08	0
Japanese Govmt Bond	Sep 96	118.67	118.77	118.27	118.33	4634
	Dec 96	117.84	117.87	117.25	117.31	410
German Gov Bd Bund	Sep 96	95.68	95.70	95.00	95.17	117822
Previous open interest: 209168	Dec 96	94.77	94.77	94.33	94.27	429
Three month ECU	Sep 96	95.58	95.58	95.53	95.56	1112
Previous open interest: 21978	Dec 96	95.41	95.41	95.35	95.39	705
Euro Swiss Franc	Sep 96	97.36	97.36	97.22	97.28	14563
Previous open interest: 66461	Dec 96	97.17	97.19	97.06	97.11	2230
Italian Govmt Bond	Sep 96	117.55	117.76	116.86	117.12	42698
Previous open interest: 61983	Dec 96	116.60	116.90	116.40	116.40	112

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates Clearing Banks 5%. Finance Houses
Discount Market Loans O/night high: 5%, Low 5%, Week fixed: 5%
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5%; 3 mth 5%. Sell: 2 mth 5%; 3 mth: 5%.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅛-5	5-4⅞	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	n/a
Sterling Money Rates:	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	n/a
Interbank:	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	n/a

Overnight open 5¼, close 5¼.

Local Authority Deps:	5⅝	n/a	5⅝	5⅝	5⅝
Sterling CDs:	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5
Dollar CDs:	5.37	n/a	5.47	5.65	6.00
Building Society CDs:	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	n/a

TREASURY BILLS: Applied: £4.41bn allotted: £400m. Bids: £946.63% received: 25%. Last week: £98.62% received: 83%. Avge rate: £5.4617% last wk £5.5318%. Next week: £400m

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5¼-4¾	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	4-3
Deutschemark:	3¼-3⅛	3¼-3⅛	3¼-3⅛	3¼-3⅛	3½-2½
French Franc:	3¼-3⅛	3¼-3⅛	3¼-3⅛	4-3¾	4-3
Swiss Franc:	2¼-2⅛	2¼-2⅛	2¼-2⅛	2¼-2⅛	3-2
Yen:	¼-⅛	¼-⅛	¼-⅛	¼-⅛	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $383.40-380.80 Close: $381.50-382.00 High: $381.60-382.10
Low: $380 25-380.75 AM: $381.00 PM: $381.50

Krugerrand: $381.00-383.00 (£242.00-244.00)

Platinum: $389.50 (£250.25) Silver: $5.09 (£3.265) Palladium: $131.50 (£84.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for July 5	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6638-2.6679	2.6641-2.6649	½-¼pr	1¼-1pr
Brussels	48.850-48.980	48.872-48.917	13-8pr	33-29pr
Copenhagen	9.1458-9.1681	9.1485-9.1580	1¾-1¼pr	4¾-3¾pr
Dublin	0.9731-0.9763	0.9748-0.9755	5-2pr	11-9pr
Frankfurt	2.3741-2.3782	2.3751-2.3770	½-¼pr	1¼-1pr
Lisbon	243.73-244.49	243.91-244.16	½-¼dis	½-¼dis
Madrid	199.53-199.92	199.59-199.90	24-34dis	72-89dis
Milan	2360.1-2380.9	2381.4-2383.4	5-7dis	15-17dis
Montreal	2.1157-2.1314	2.1273-2.1281	0.23-0.15pr	0.42-0.31pr
New York	1.5547-1.5587	1.5547-1.5554	0.045-0.025pr	0.06-0.037pr
Oslo	10.125-10.190	10.125-10.141	½-¼pr	½-¼pr
Paris	8.0240-8.0420	8.0277-8.0289	1¾-1¼pr	3½-3pr
Stockholm	10.357-10.396	10.366-10.386	½-¼dis	½-¼dis
Tokyo	172.11-172.47	172.35-172.50	½-¼pr	2¼-2pr
Vienna	16.706-16.741	16.715-16.729	½-¼pr	1-¾pr
Zurich	1.9575-1.9631	1.9613-1.9634	¾-½pr	1¾-1½pr

Source: Exte — *Premium - pr, Discount - dis.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2656-1.2666
Austria	10.74-10.75
Belgium (Com)	31.41-31.42
Canada	1.3665-1.3680
Denmark	5.8775-5.8805
France	5.1585-5.1590
Germany	1.5201-1.5206
Hong Kong	7.7402-7.7412
Ireland	1.5965-1.5985
Italy	1531.00-1532.20
Japan	110.75-110.80
Malaysia	2.4905-2.4915
Netherlands	1.7120-1.7130
Norway	6.5003-6.5138
Portugal	154.72-156.82
Singapore	1.4134-1.4144
Spain	128.29-128.32
Sweden	6.6601-6.6701
Switzerland	1.2541-1.2549

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.5501-1.5587
Australia dollar	1.9671-1.9691
Bahrain dinar	0.5810-0.5930
Brazil real	1.5607-1.5649
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7250-0.7351
Finland markka	7.1980-7.2110
Greece drachma	309.75-312.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.0438-12.0530
India rupee	54.19-55.15
Indonesia rupiah	3614.03-3682.80
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4620-0.4720
Malaysia ringgit	3.8752-3.8793
New Zealand dollar	2.2630-2.2657
Pakistan rupee	54.48 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8050-5.7000
Singapore dollar	2.1960-2.2020
S Africa rand (com)	6.7100-6.8120
U A E dirham	5.6550-5.7700

Barclays Bank GTS / Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3I	359	Marks Spr	10,200
ASDA Gp	3,500	NatWst Bk	5,800
Abbey Nat	6,100	Nat Grid	1,000
Allied Dom	3,100	Nat Power	2,400
Argyll	525	Next	365
AB Foods	520	Orange	2,900
BAA	1,600	P & O	1,400
BAT Inds	3,500	Pearson	1,600
BOC	374	Pilkington	2,400
BP	6,700	PowerGen	2,000
BSkyB	1,900	Prudential	7,800
BTR	12,200	RMC	483
BT	7,600	RTZ	2,400
Bk of Scot	4,800	Rank Org	2,500
Barclays	5,500	Reckitt Col	700
Bass	3,100	Redland	3,600
Blue Circle	2,900	Reed Intl	1,500
Boots	3,100	Rentokil	4,200
Bow	400	Reuters	2,100
BA	1,200	Rolls Royce	3,500
Brit Gas	17,500	Royal Ins	3,900
Brit Steel	3,000	Ryl Bk Scot	1,900
Burmah Cstl	200	Sainsbury	1,600
Burton	2,400	Salisbury	3,900
Cable Wire	2,500	Schroders	365
Cadbury	2,300	Scot & New	725
Carlton Cms	864	Scot Power	1,300
Cm Union	892	Scrn Trent	1,400
Centrica	7,100	Shell Trans	6,400
Courtaulds	162	Siebe	1,900
Dixons	1,400	SmKl Bch	4,400
Enterpr Oil	911	Smith Nph	1,900
GKN	864	Smiths Inds	2,300
GRE	1,500	Sthern Elec	1,400
GUS	3,900	Stl Charid	1,200
Gen Acc	542	Sun Allince	2,500
Gen Elec	5,400	TI Gp	1,100
Glaxo Well	4,300	Tate & Lyle	961
Granada	2,200	Tesco	2,300
Grand Met	2,900	Thames W	415
Guinness	2,800	Thrn EMI	1,000
HSBC	3,800	Tomkins	3,900
Hanson	8,200	Unilever	550
ICI	1,700	Utd Utilities	855
Kingfisher	3,500	Utd News	1,100
LASMO	3,000	Vodafone	3,100
Ladbroke	7,300	Whitbread	2,200
Land Sec	345	Wllmt Hld	3,700
Legal & Gn	2,300	Wolsley	2,300
Lloyds TSB	8,200	Zeneca	1,900

WALL STREET

	Jul 5 midday	Jul 3 close
AMP Inc	39¾	40⅛
AMR Corp	96	97⅛
ASA	49¾	49⅝
AT & T	60⅛	61
Abbott Labs	43	43⅛
Advanced Micro	13⅛	13⅝
Aetna Life	70¾	71⅛
Ahmanson (H F)	27¾	27⅝
Air Prod & Chem	82½	82½
AirTouch Comm	27⅛	26⅝
Alberto-Culver B	25⅝	26⅛
Albertson's	41⅝	41⅛
Alcan Aluminum	31	30⅞
Alex Standard	46½	45⅞
Allied Signal	58⅛	58⅛
Alum Co of Am	58½	58⅜
Amax Gold Inc	6⅜	6⅜
Amerada Hess	53⅝	53⅝
Amer Brands	40⅛	40⅛
Amer El Power	42	42⅛
Amer Express	44	44⅛
Amer Gen Corp	36½	37⅛
Amer Home PF	59⅛	59⅛
Amer Intl	100⅝	100⅝
Amer Stores	34½	35⅛
Amer Standard	32	32⅛
Ameritech	54½	54⅜
Amoco	69⅜	70
Anheuser-Busch	74½	74⅝
Apple Computer	19½	19½
Archer Daniel	18⅝	18⅝
Armco	4⅜	4⅜
Armstrong Wrld	57⅛	57⅛
Asarco	26⅜	27⅛
Atl Richfield	121⅛	122
Auto Data Pro	37⅞	38⅛
Avon Dominion	55⅝	56⅛
Avon Products	44⅛	45⅛
Baker Hughes	32½	32⅝
Baltim Gas & El	27⅛	27⅛
Bank One	34⅜	34⅝
BankAmerica	76½	78
Bank of NY	60⅛	61⅛
Bankers Tr NY	74⅞	75⅛
Barnett Banks	61⅛	62
Bausch & Lomb	41⅛	41⅛
Baxter Intl	45⅜	46⅛
Bectn Dickinson	70⅝	70⅝
Bell Atlantic	62⅜	63⅛
Bell Industries	15⅛	15⅛
Bellsouth	42½	42⅝
Black & Decker	27⅞	28
Block (H&R)	31⅝	32⅛
Boeing	94½	95⅛
Bolse Cascade	30⅜	30⅜
Bristol Myrs Sq	87⅛	87⅛
Brunswick	19⅞	20
Burlington Nthn	94⅞	95⅛
CMS Enrgy Corp	27⅛	27⅛
CNA Financial	101	101
CPC Intl	70½	71⅛
CSX	57⅞	58⅛
Campbell Soup	67⅛	68⅛
Can Pacific	21⅛	21⅛
Carolina Pwr	37⅛	37⅛
Caterpillar	84½	84½
Central & SW	23⅛	23⅛
Champion Intl	41⅛	42
Chase Manhat	77⅛	77⅛
Chevron Corp	79⅝	80
Chrysler	59⅛	59⅛
Chubb Corp	86⅜	86⅜
Ciena Corp	115	116
Cilcorp	58	58⅛
Cinergy	37⅛	37⅛
Circuit City	27⅛	27⅛
Coca Cola	68⅛	68⅛
Colgate-Palmolive	82½	82⅝
Columbia Gas	47⅛	47⅛
Columbia/HCA	47⅛	47⅛
Compaq Comp	66⅛	66⅛
Comptr Sc Int	76⅛	76⅛
Conagra	36⅛	36⅛
Conrail	80⅛	80⅛
Con Edison	29⅝	29⅝
Cons Nat Gas	53⅛	53⅛
Cooper Ind	40⅛	40⅛
Coastaires	30⅛	30⅛
Corning Inc	34⅛	34⅛
Crown Cork	44⅛	44⅛
Cuba Corp	24⅛	24⅛
Dayton Hudson	70½	70½
Deere	38⅛	38⅝
Delta Air Lines	80⅛	80⅝
Deluxe Corp	30⅛	30⅛
Digital Equip	74⅛	74⅛
Dillard Dept St	35⅛	35⅛
Disney (Walt)	80⅛	81⅛
Dominion Res	38⅛	38⅛
Donnelley (RR)	34⅛	34⅛
D

Labour to stick with windfall tax plan

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PRIVATISED utilities will fail in their campaign to deter a future Labour government from introducing a windfall tax on their profits, Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said yesterday.

An incoming Labour government will introduce a windfall tax on the utilities in its first Budget, Mr Brown pledged.

His statements appear to dash the lingering hopes of some privatised utilities that they may be able to be exempted from Labour's planned windfall tax, which will be used to fund a number of policy initiatives, including proposals to reduce youth unemployment.

Mr Brown, who yesterday addressed the annual conference of the Training and Enterprise Councils in Birmingham said it was "increasingly obvious" that a "very expensive and in some cases underhand propaganda campaign" was being mounted by the privatised utilities against Labour's planned windfall tax. However, he said: "It will fail."

Reports this week suggested that efforts by some utility companies to be exempted from the tax were likely to be successful with Labour, though its new *Road to the Manifesto* document said explicitly that a Labour government would introduce a one-off windfall levy on the excess profits of the privatised utilities which, over the course of a Parliament, would pay for Labour's employment plans for young people.

Mr Brown also called on Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to publish the Treasury's study on the impact of a windfall tax. Pointing out that Mr Clarke had admitted this week that Treasury officials had late last year carried out an evaluation of Labour's proposals, Mr Brown insisted that such an analysis ought now to be made public.



John Barnes, second from left, celebrates Harry Ramsden's profits rise with directors Russell Scott, Richard Taylor and Richard Richardson

Ramsden's counters the cold

HARRY RAMSDEN'S, the fish and chip shop chain, wrapped up a 31 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £169,491 in the half year to March 31, with turnover up 18 per cent to £1.9 million, despite poor winter weather affecting trade (Clare Stewart writes).

The National Lottery also made an impact, said John Barnes, executive chairman, with the weekly announcement of the winning numbers disrupting Saturday night trade. However, the opening of three new outlets including the first at a Granada motorway service station, helped to boost sales.

Sales of Harry Ramsden's-approved Ross Chip Shop products in supermarkets also did well. "The products now have a 10 per cent share of the frozen battered fish market, taking Ross to market leader," said Mr Barnes.

The group currently has 15 UK sites, with three overseas in Melbourne, Hong Kong and Dublin. Its first franchised counter service outlet opens in Tenerife this summer.

"We see 40 more sites in the UK in the next three to four years. There are a lot of deals being done at the moment so the openings are likely to be seen from 1997," said Mr Barnes.

He poured cold water however on recent bid speculation. The dividend is kept at 1p. Shares added 3p to 373p.

Optimism from Redland as sales volumes recover

BY MARTIN BARROW

REDLAND, the building materials group, offered an unexpected glimmer of hope to the construction industry yesterday after reporting that a recovery in volumes experienced this spring was likely to continue into the second half of its financial year.

The company, which confirmed at its annual meeting in May it had been hit by the "appalling" winter weather conditions in Europe, said sales volumes had recovered in the second quarter.

Redland shares, which fell sharply after that profit warning, rose 6p to 408p yesterday. Last November the shares had fallen to 326p.

Redland, which was briefing City analysts yesterday, published a detailed breakdown of its main operating divisions. This showed that each one had achieved a better year-on-year performance in April and May.

In Britain, where concrete roof tiles volumes were down 14 per in the quarter to the end of March, volumes in April and May were down just 2 per cent.

The decline in aggregates volumes eased to 14 per cent from 20 per cent while demand for bricks actually rose 2 per cent, compared with a 3 per cent fall in the first quarter.

Operations in Germany also appear to be emerging from a protracted slump. Sales of German concrete roof tiles rose by 1 per cent, compared with the corresponding months in 1995. In the first three months of the year, the division had seen a 47 per cent year-on-year fall.

The recovery reflects better prospects for housing starts in Germany. These were down just 3 per cent in the four months to April 30, which represents a a recovery of 15 percent from the trough reached in the fourth quarter of 1995, according to Redland.

Prospects were also improving for other European operations, Redland said. Dutch roof tiles, which saw a year-on-year fall of 44 per cent in the first three months of 1996, also showed a rise of 1 per cent in April and May. In France, roof tile volumes improved 4 per cent in April and May, compared with a decline of 9 per cent in the first quarter.

In America, where volumes were already higher in the first quarter, aggregrates were up 7 per cent in April and May and concrete roof tiles up 26 per cent, Redland said.

This year, Redland has restructured its European roof tile business, merging all subsidiaries in a new company, called Redland Braas, with Braas of Germany. It has also sold its brick business to Ibstock for £160 million.

Tempus, page 30

Ireland's jobless total rises

FROM EILEEN MCCABE
IN DUBLIN

IRELAND'S jobless total jumped almost 4,000 last month, according to statistics released yesterday by the Central Statistics Office. The seasonally adjusted June figure of 285,200 was the largest monthly total since March 1994.

The Republic's unemployment rate of 12.6 per cent remains one of the highest in the European Union despite the country's economic boom. The unadjusted figure for June was 282,900, an increase of almost 8,000 over the previous month and the highest since February 1996.

Analysts blamed the combined effects of a slow start to the tourist season because of poor weather and the continuing fallout from the BSE crisis for the increases.

The figures will put further pressure on Ruairi Quinn, the Minister of Finance, who is already battling hard to keep public expenditure under control. In his January Budget, he predicted unemployment would average 275,000 this year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Minorco confirms Liberty stake sale

MINORCO, the natural resources company, yesterday confirmed that it has sold its interest in Liberty International, the life assurance company, raising £56.6 million. The interest, comprising about 4.7 per cent of Liberty's ordinary shares and 9.81 per cent of the series 'A' preference shares, has been sold to SBC Warburg and UBS. It represents about 4.99 per cent of the fully diluted equity. Minorco is looking to increase its cash resources by selling non-core assets in order to fund the development of several mines, including a huge copper mine in Chile.

The company needs about $2 billion to fund mine development over the next three to four years, half of which will come from its own resources. It sold a 10 per cent interest in Johnson Matthey, the precious metals and specialist ceramics company, to SBC Warburg for £132 million. In February, Minorco sold a 9.6 per cent holding worth about $82 million in Santa Fé Energy Resources, an oil and gas company based in America. Minorco is owned by Anglo American, the Oppenheimer family and De Beers, and chaired by Julian Ogilvy Thompson.

Warning hurts UDO

UDO Holdings shares fell 30p to 211p after the supplier of office drawing equipment and reprographic services warned investors that business volumes and operating margins have declined further since the half-year results in March. The company said pre-tax profits for the year to July 31 are expected to be only slightly better than the previous year and less than the current market expectations.

Escom shares inquiry

GERMANY authorities are investigating alleged insider trading in shares of Escom, the computer retailing group and owner of the former Rumbelows chain in Britain, which earlier this week filed for protection from its creditors. The Securities Trading Supervisory Office said it had noticed a surge in the number of Escom shares traded and a plunge in the share price in the days before the protection announcement.

Prospect losses cut

LOSSES at Prospect Industries, the specialist piping design and fabrication company, were reduced to £3.33 million before tax in the half year to March 31, from £11.7 million in the first half of the previous year. Losses eased to 1.03p a share from 3.78p. Again there is no dividend. Comparable losses last time include a £7 million goodwill write-off and a £1.5 million reorganisation charge.

Bardon grows in US

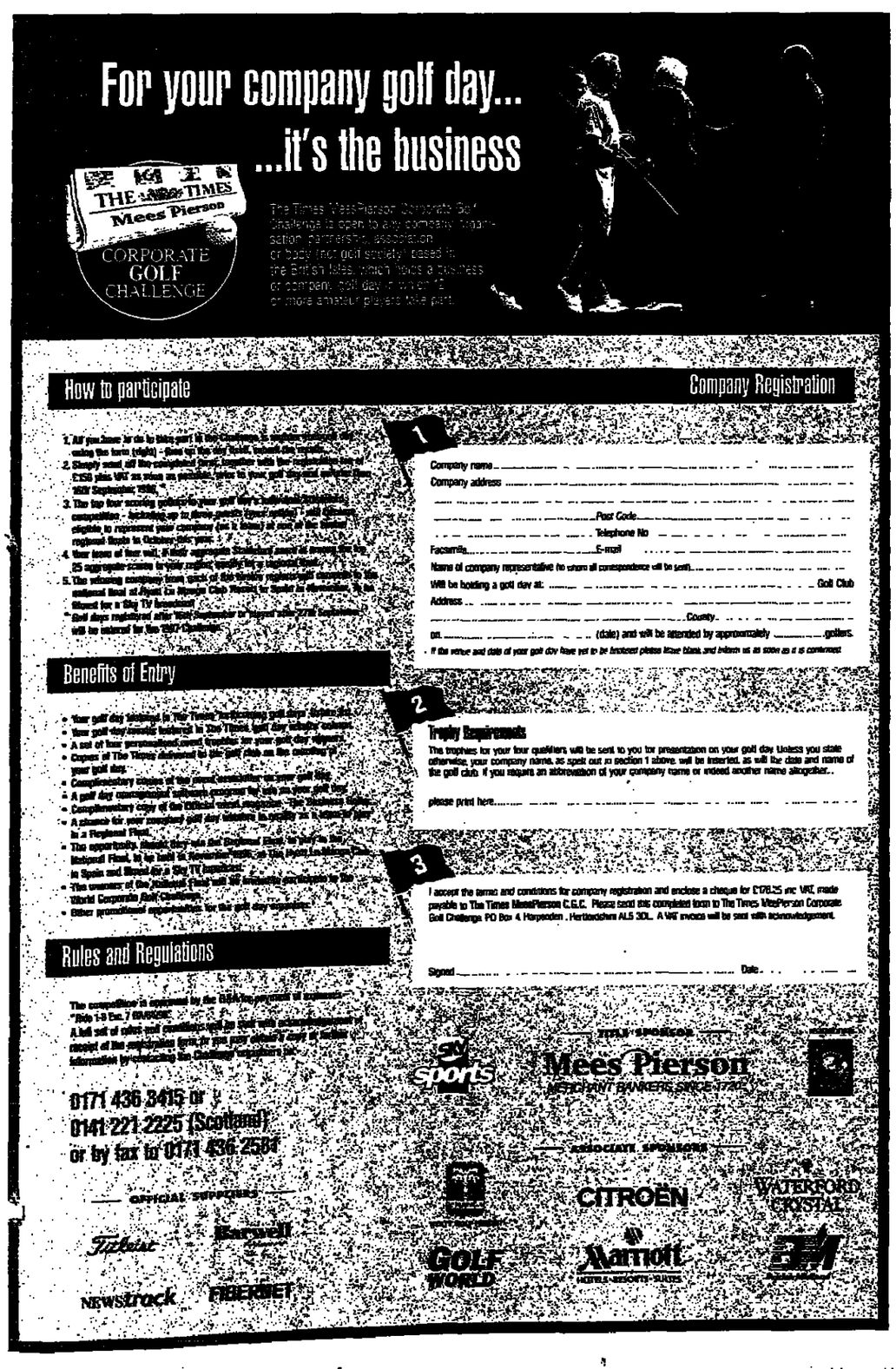
BARDON GROUP, the UK aggregates company, is expanding its US operations with acquisitions worth a total of $32 million. It is paying $25 million for EL Gardner Inc, a ready-mix concrete and aggregates operation in Maryland, and $9.6 million for the minerals, quarry and blacktop plants at the Peabody Quarry near Boston, which has been run by Bardon's Trimount subsidiary under an operating lease.

Newman Tonks sells

NEWMAN TONKS, the UK building materials group, has sold NT Moller Undall, its Norwegian hardware and locks business, to Assa Abloy, of Sweden, for £16.45 million. Moller Undall earned profits of £1.9 million before tax and intra-group charges in 1995 on turnover of £19.2 million. Net assets were £7.5 million at December 31. The disposal reduces gearing at Newman Tonks to about 50 per cent.

Osborne & Little deal

SHARES of Osborne & Little rose 38p to 668p yesterday after the upmarket furnishing and fabrics company announced the acquisition of 15-year rights to use the Liberty trademark for furnishing fabrics and wallpapers. The company will pay around £900,000 plus a royalty based on future sales. The deal excludes Japan, where Liberty already has a licensing deal. Liberty shares rose 5p to 405p.



Merger of ADT and Republic hits trouble

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

THE proposed $5 billion merger of ADT and Republic Industries to form the world's largest electronic securities group has run into trouble.

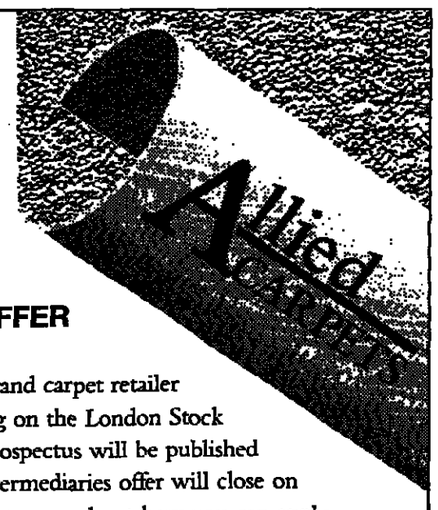
Western Resources, a leading ADT shareholder, with a 23.4 per cent stake, is unhappy with the merger and may try to block it. "We're not enamoured with the deal and they clearly need our co-operation," a senior Western Resources executive said.

The stock market reacted by marking down ADT shares, which are now trading at about $21.50, well below the $25.88 at which they are valued in the deal with Republic. Western paid $14.40 a share for its stake.

Western is unhappy that it was not consulted by either side before the merger plan was announced. It also does not like the structure of the deal and could force Republic, controlled by the billionaire Wayne Huizenga, to rethink its strategy.

Western could probably not stop the deal altogether, but could force Republic to substantially raise the offer price or change the basis of the deal from a merger to a straightforward acquisition. Treating it as a merger means that Republic would not have to write off any goodwill, but if it had to move to an acquisition basis it would have to write off hundred of millions of dollars. That would greatly increase the cost of the deal.

ADT is Britain's largest security services supplier and car auction company. Michael Ashcroft, its chairman, stands to make about $300 million from the deal.



PLACING AND INTERMEDIARIES OFFER

Allied Carpets, the leading brand carpet retailer in the UK, is seeking a listing on the London Stock Exchange. The price range prospectus will be published on Tuesday 9 July and the intermediaries offer will close on Wednesday 17 July. To find out more about how you can apply to buy shares in Allied Carpets, you can:

1 CONTACT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

City Deal Services Limited 0800-437437
ShareLink Limited 0345-665665
Neilson Cobbold Limited 0151-2425214
The Share Centre Ltd 0800-800008

Or: 2 CONTACT YOUR STOCKBROKER OR SHARESHOP

Or: 3 CALL THE ALLIED CARPETS HELPLINE 0990-143 131

THE MINIMUM APPLICATION WILL BE £1,500

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01895 256 789

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Gtelend Amer	209.20	223.10	+ 0.50	0.14
Gtelend Equity	274.10	291.60	+ 6.80	1.87
Gtelend Euro	272.60	288.50	- 0.40	0.56
Gtelend Expl Ball	131.50	136.30		2.58
Gtelend Gilt	77.22	79.61	+ 0.17	6.65
Gtelend Japan	181.70	192.30	- 2.90	

ANA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 552 231

General Acc	654.40	696.20	+11.50	2.47
General Inc	566.00	591.50	+ 9.70	2.47
UK Growth Acc	445.30	473.70	+ 9.70	2.67
UK Growth Inc	292.30	311.00	+ 6.40	2.67
Higher Inc Acc	780.80	830.80	+13.20	4.18
Higher Inc Inc	426.00	453.20	+ 7.30	4.18
GAE/Fed Int Acc	207.70	219.40	+ 1.00	5.62
Gilts/Fed Int Inc	93.24	98.49	+ 0.43	5.62
Nth America	378.70	402.90	+ 1.70	
Europe	362.20	385.40	- 0.70	0.38
Int Equity	86.31	93.95	+ 0.87	2.85
Int Fedmtls Acc	112.60	119.80	+ 1.20	4.75
Int Fedmtls Inc	77.18	82.11	+ 0.90	4.75
Global Opps	165.60	112.70†	- 0.50	
Balanced Acc	92.84	98.85	+ 0.55	2.62
Balanced Inc	58.49	63.26	+ 0.34	2.62
Japan Acc	48.26	51.35	- 1.28	
Pac Basin Acc	416.70	443.30	- 0.30	0.79

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
00345 717 373

Gilts & Fixed Int	129.00	136.80†	+ 0.70	7.13
High Inc Equity	178.70	192.30†	+ 0.90	4.48
Worldwide Bond	293.90	308.70	+ 1.10	4.89
American Growth	371.80	396.90	+ 1.10	0.19
Asian Pacific	348.40	370.50	- 3.30	0.18
Assets & Earnings	298.60	319.40	- 1.00	2.78
Euro Capital Acc	183.80	195.60	- 0.80	0.80
Euro Inc	43.61	46.39†	+ 0.36	7.73
General	276.20	293.80	+ 2.40	2.99
Global Opps	70.55	75.05	- 0.01	0.53
Japan	126.70	135.50	+ 4.30	
Managed Inc	42.96	45.92†	+ 0.34	4.56
Monarchist	179.40	182.20	+ 0.40	0.80
US Emerging Cos	217.20	231.10	+ 3.60	
Ethical	81.15	86.37†	+ 0.50	2.57
International	141.80	150.90	- 1.00	0.35
Dividend & Growth	86.92	71.19†	- 0.38	4.31
Global Gwth & Inc	73.06	78.07	- 0.14	2.42
Latin America	69.70	73.00	+ 0.89	
Capital Reserve	144.30	144.30	+ 0.10	5.20

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

UK Smalr Cos	2358.00	2445.00	- 16.00	

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 653 580

Amer Inc & Growth	60.01	62.35	+ 0.73	0.49
Emerging Mkts	75.00	78.00	+ 0.02	0.04
European	153.70	159.90	- 0.10	
Exempt	1067.30	1155.00†	- 4.90	1.61
Extra Income #	46.76	50.21†	- 0.01	6.69
Far East Exmp Eqn	135.70	142.40†		0.44
Fixed Interest #	25.13	26.13	+ 0.06	9.20
Fixed Int Tst	152.40	160.00†	- 3.30	9.59
Japan	192.40	200.10	- 6.40	
Latin American	60.97	63.99	- 0.11	0.77
Pacific	67.05	91.41	- 0.85	0.35
Property Shrs	67.25	70.60†	- 0.33	2.49
UK Emerging Co.	73.91	78.79†	- 1.76	1.21
UK Growth	52.80	55.57	+ 0.97	2.11
Abtr World Port #	82.01	83.63†	+ 0.69	1.88
Ethical	77.59	69.70†	+ 0.51	2.19
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.61	50.61†	+ 0.28	7.42

For AEGON see Matthews

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5699

Provid Property #	94.60	101.50	- 0.20	5.11

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

Annuity Income	90.14	95.64	+ 0.84	2.10
Income Builder Inc	78.96	84.00†	+ 0.62	4.22

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg. 01793 810 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514

Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	275.60	294.60	+ 3.20	3.15
Capital	491.40	525.20	+ 4.20	1.20
Balanced	794.30	849.10†	+ 6.90	2.45
Accumulator	1530.00	1635.00†	+ 12.00	1.91
Income Trusts				
American Income	60.79	64.96	- 0.03	2.46
High Income	445.30	476.00	+ 4.00	3.98
Equity Income	246.60	263.60†	- 3.00	4.01
High Yield	358.40	388.90	+ 2.10	4.19
Gen Securities	33.71	35.57	- 0.02	6.14
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	208.10	222.20	+ 0.30	0.05
European Growth	55.23	58.97	- 0.05	0.07
International	192.70	205.80	- 0.60	0.11
Japan	218.00	233.00†	- 4.30	
Pacific	436.30	466.40†	+ 1.10	
Spec of America	573.90	611.50†	- 2.70	0.13
Wrlde Asset Val	57.36	61.33	- 0.27	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	612.20	654.40†	+ 3.00	2.09
Cons 5 Gilt	48.60	52.16	- 0.46	4.16
Smaller Cos	217.30	232.20†	+ 0.40	0.86
2nd Smaller Cos	207.10	221.30	+ 1.00	0.83
Recovery	167.00	178.50†	+ 0.80	1.58
Mid Men & Cnty	199.30	180.90	- 0.70	0.17
Gross Earnings	414.10	442.60†	+ 4.00	1.13
Technology	225.80	241.30	+ 0.10	
UK Special Sits	571.30	610.70	+ 3.80	1.03

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 528 911

Cntrctl Gut Pens	116.10	120.60	- 1.20	3.04
Fownlin Pens Pens	69.91	72.63	- 0.37	1.44

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 600 0033

Capital	80.09	85.20†	+ 0.18	1.66
International	69.81	74.27†	- 1.01	

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

America	345.60	369.70	+ 7.50	
Bond	115.50	121.60†	- 0.80	6.85
Brit Smlr Cos	121.90	129.70	- 1.30	1.74
Conv & Gen #	73.01	77.67	- 0.49	5.09
Europe	283.50	300.50	- 0.50	0.57
Euro Smlr Cos	126.30	134.40	- 0.70	0.80
Income Gwth	376.70	400.70†	+ 4.20	4.37
Japan	338.00	360.40	+ 7.70	
Latin American	87.38	92.96†	+ 0.79	0.84
Pacific	118.60	127.20	+ 1.20	1.17
UK Smlr Cos	62.09	66.05	+ 0.25	1.20
Japan Fd	709.30	760.70	- 12.20	
Mngd Fd	200.50	212.90	+ 0.40	2.85

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 6673

Brit & Overs	364.50	385.20	- 3.50	0.91
Capital Gwth	123.50	130.60	+ 1.10	2.53
Wrlde Opps	220.20	232.90	- 1.60	0.89

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 534 5544

Balanced Trusts				
Bld Inv Fd Inc	412.90	438.10	+ 8.30	2.49
European Bd Inc	95.63	100.00	+ 0.02	6.66
Exempt	80.29	85.61	+ 1.22	2.97
Financial	96.77	103.00†	- 2.10	5.73
500	521.30	568.70	- 0.40	2.35
General	317.50	340.10	+ 5.10	2.59
Property	240.30	257.80†	+ 0.30	6.30
Trustees	216.50	233.70†	+ 3.80	2.38
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.10	100.10†	+ 0.10	5.13
Distribution #@ #	111.30	111.90†	+ 1.20	6.27
Extra Income #	134.00	143.30	+ 1.70	4.86
Gilt & Fxd Int	97.68	99.71†	+ 0.59	8.03
Income #	581.30	621.70	+ 8.40	4.73
Income Builder #	68.46	73.02	+ 0.68	5.47
Int'l Income	69.79	74.24†	+ 0.49	2.65
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	139.10	148.30	+ 2.40	2.15
Leisure	179.10	191.60	+ 1.40	0.67
Recovery	481.20	514.70	+ 6.00	2.80
Smlr Cos Inc	60.07	64.42	- 0.51	1.98
Special Sits	308.10	415.10	+ 2.50	0.66
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	172.80	183.60	+ 1.10	0.07
Asia Acc	281.10	298.90	- 5.20	1.90
Aust Inc	168.10	179.30†	+ 3.20	2.07
Euro Gwth Inc	192.80	204.70	+ 0.40	0.54
- do- Accum	208.20	221.00	- 0.50	0.54
Japan & Gen Inc	159.20	168.50	- 3.60	
- do- Accum	161.00	170.50	- 3.60	
Japan Spec Sits	74.56	78.99	- 1.77	
Worldwide	200.20	212.70†	- 1.30	0.46

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

American Growth	129.20	136.50	- 0.20	
Asset Selfs Cos	167.50	179.10	+ 0.80	
Convertibles	60.52	64.91†	+ 0.22	4.98
Eastern	313.90	337.60	+ 1.60	0.30
Equity Income	96.52	102.20	+ 2.00	3.89
European Growth	373.40	396.70	+ 3.60	0.60
Europe	361.80	385.00†	+ 1.20	1.60
Gennan Growth	89.81	95.17	+ 0.68	0.50
Global Based	70.92	74.66	+ 0.14	0.50
Global Growth	148.30	157.70	- 0.10	0.40
Japan Growth	206.90	219.80	- 3.90	
Japan Smlrise	174.40	185.40	- 3.30	
Actual Retail	71.75	77.92	+ 1.31	
Portfolio	145.30	153.60	- 1.30	2.30
- do- Accum	212.10	221.40	+ 2.50	2.30
UK Growth	101.00	108.10†	+ 2.40	2.60
UK Smaller Cos	96.93	107.60	+ 0.90	2.50
Select Managers	89.81	96.31	+ 0.19	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3000

Intl Cash Port Inc	90.75	96.52	- 1.18	
Special Oppor Inc	62.12	66.08	- 0.11	

BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

Balanced Growth	140.46	149.64	+ 1.62	1.38
- do- Accum	161.86	171.28	+ 2.10	1.38
Smaller Cos	157.39	165.55	+ 0.59	0.28
Higher Yield #	56.71	58.95†	+ 0.52	3.83
American Gth Inc	99.37	105.16	- 0.53	
European Growth	165.32	174.94	- 0.47	
- do- Accum	168.64	178.45	- 0.48	
Global Bond Inc #	25.67	26.80†	- 0.08	6.32
Mngd Philo Inc	53.48	56.57	+ 0.30	1.34
- do- Accum	55.12	58.30	+ 0.31	1.34
Int Sves Opps	169.34	179.20	+ 1.15	
Pacific Gth	149.52	158.22	- 3.17	
Uk General #	92.76	98.18†	+ 0.59	2.77
- do- Accum #	99.30	105.08	+ 0.63	2.77
Japan	62.13	65.74	- 1.40	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	99.22	102.82†	+ 0.61	8.64

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
01771 600 7216

Shrd Dated Gilt	65.80	65.65	+ 0.26	6.56

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5060

Envirun	189.00	199.00†	+ 0.60	1.87
Gilt Growth	206.40	217.30	+ 1.30	2.07
Uk Income	144.10	151.70	+ 2.20	4.52

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 822 100

Can Gen Dist	231.70	245.60	+ 2.70	1.61
-do- Income Dist	121.59	128.80	+ 1.60	3.88
-do- Accum	350.20	413.60	+ 5.90	3.88
Gilt & Fxd Int	41.01	43.06	+ 0.23	8.31
Growth Units	244.30	261.30	+ 5.10	2.07
Bond	175.40	184.70	+ 0.50	7.29
Intl Growth	252.50	268.40	+ 1.70	0.18
North American	358.00	372.50	- 0.40	0.16
Far East	314.20	336.00†	- 0.60	0.61
UK Smaller Cos	232.00	248.10†	+ 1.00	0.77
European	97.64	103.50†	- 0.70	0.60
Japanese Growth	49.84	52.95	- 1.39	
High Income	212.10	226.80	+ 4.40	4.30

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7456

American & Gen	202.20	216.50	+ 2.60	
European Inc	95.29	100.05	- 0.52	0.52
Smaller Cos (4-11)	109.70	116.80	- 0.40	1.43
Growth	536.80	571.10	+ 7.80	1.65
Income & Growth #	452.00	480.90	+ 7.20	3.95
- do- Accum #	668.00	710.70	+ 10.70	3.95
Japan & Gen	71.65	76.13	- 1.67	
Master Portfolio	$116.74	£120.52†	+$0.00	2.01
- do- Accum	£143.57	£148.22	+£0.00	2.01
Special Sits	123.20	131.10†	+ 0.30	1.72
High Yield	$14.45	$14.90	+$0.00	4.49

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

Cazenove Portfolio	99.94	105.56†	- 0.68	2.40
Accumulative Portfolio	119.68	127.27†	- 1.10	0.88
European Portfolio	133.45	142.56	- 0.15	0.82
High Income	91.14	91.24	- 0.07	7.41
Japanese Portfolio	72.16	76.67†	- 1.48	
Pacific Portfolio	157.50	168.36†	+ 0.24	1.41
UK Equity	96.22	102.76	+ 0.59	3.11
UK Equity & Bd	95.68	98.60	+ 0.20	6.48

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

Inv Fund	737.65	749.01	- 0.77	4.39
Fxd In Sec	153.34	153.86	+ 0.12	9.29

CQIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Investment Inc	724.82	735.78	- 7.53	4.53
Investment Acc	833.03	833.53	+ 3.28	
Fixed Int Inc	124.06	124.56	- 2.44	9.31
Fixed Int Acc	220.99	221.67	+ 0.80	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

Beckman Intl	87.97	92.04	+ 0.61	3.23
Stock Bro Tech	46.15	48.67†	+ 0.06	
Accum Ethical Tst	187.44	196.83†	+ 0.64	0.45
City Fin Assets	79.31	83.28	- 0.06	1.57
City Fin America	118.90	124.88	- 0.72	
City Fin Intl	82.19	86.61	- 0.06	0.44
City Fin Japan	155.63	163.43	- 4.04	
Friars Hse Cap	310.85	333.88†	- 9.16	2.24
Friars Hse Inc	162.38	204.64†	- 2.49	3.69
Buckley Ulster Grp	150.97	160.03	- 1.49	
I Std Inv/Gth Inc	56.44	59.27†	+ 0.47	1.32
Share Options	57.61	61.95	+ 0.92	5.88

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

Emerging Markets	58.32	62.64	- 0.39	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

American Gwth	81.72	86.94	+ 0.98	
Dragon Growth	74.16	79.31	- 0.06	0.32
Equity High Inc	87.92	94.12†	+ 1.10	4.29
-do- Accum	125.08	133.98	+ 1.57	4.29
Extra Income	25.98	27.35†	- 0.22	7.64
Extra Income Acc	28.15	29.64	+ 0.16	7.64
European Gwth	63.34	67.20	- 0.06	0.85
Evergreen	33.29	35.60	+ 0.15	
General Equity	101.24	107.42	+ 1.73	3.00
High Yield	54.28	57.74	- 1.20	
Managed Fund	63.28	67.32	+ 0.94	2.37
Pacific Gwth	38.69	41.16	- 0.26	1.43
Pen Sm Cos Inc	38.69	41.16	- 0.30	1.43
-do- Accum	48.98	43.69	- 0.30	1.43
Retirement Inc #	27.30	29.04	+ 0.20	6.10
Special Sits	47.63	50.67	+ 0.05	2.20
Uk & Overseas	60.05	63.71		0.85

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 696 000

Balanced	67.79	70.61	+ 1.11	4.06
Capital	81.48	84.87	+ 1.56	2.31
High Income	58.65	52.98†	+ 0.28	7.16
Top 50	54.65	56.92	+ 1.36	2.14

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
0181 686 9818

PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	190.70	198.65	- 0.34	4.62
Long Gilt	61.99	64.70†	- 0.33	7.45
Monthly Inc Plus	48.80	50.83	- 0.08	8.81
Preference Share	47.30	48.12†	- 1.31	8.10
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	136.24	141.92†	- 4.68	8.01
Managed Fund	77.58	80.81	- 0.76	2.66
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	52.43	54.61	- 0.87	1.74
-do- Accum	61.98	64.56	- 1.01	1.74
UK & General	95.02	98.98	+ 0.57	2.61
-do- Accum	103.24	108.36	+ 0.57	2.61
UK Growth	189.71	197.61	+ 1.57	1.42
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	214.31	223.24	- 4.49	0.65
Far Eastern Gnth	144.55	150.57	- 3.75	0.02
Global Bond	80.78	84.15	- 2.01	5.69
Japan Growth	120.02	125.02	- 5.78	
North Amer Gnth	238.25	248.18	- 4.31	
Oriental Growth	86.56	90.19	- 2.91	0.26
Worldwide Growth	75.77	78.93	- 2.03	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.47	92.47	+ 0.08	5.20
Homemaker Fund	92.36	98.26	+ 1.21	1.54
Outlier Fund	154.29	164.14	+ 3.01	1.90

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5966

Consistent Ut	36.05	38.54	+ 0.26	3.22

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358

Growth	179.80	191.30	- 0.70	1.63
Income	70.79	75.31	+ 0.26	4.80
European	75.28	80.08	- 0.74	0.74
Recovery	188.50	198.40	- 0.90	1.77

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 283 9494

Equity Dist	933.70	948.30†	- 16.90	3.55

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 690 370

Fellowship Tst	112.10	119.20	+ 0.10	1.09
Income #	284.00	302.10	+ 3.50	4.19
-do- Accum #	743.50	790.90	+ 9.40	4.19
Smaller Cos	297.30	252.40†	- 0.40	0.91
-do- Accum	294.60	313.40	- 0.40	0.91
Gth Portfolio	101.80	108.30	+ 1.00	1.57
High Inc Pref #	82.37	87.62	+ 0.76	4.34

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 470 1634

Euro Small Cos	1706.60	1769.90	- 2.30	
Japan Small Cos	1329.20	1393.30	- 31.30	
UK Small Cos	2221.90	2309.80	- 3.20	2.67
US Small Cos	2178.50	2224.00	+ 3.60	0.93

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 327 6619

Dsc Inc	233.70	246.00†	- 0.20	2.93

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 555

UK Balanced Inc	164.30	174.70†	+ 3.10	1.85
UK High Inc Inc	171.60	182.50	+ 2.60	3.74
-do- Accum	251.70	246.40	+ 3.80	3.74
UK Eamings	57.82	61.45†	+ 0.35	6.02
Emerimd Opps	98.64	108.00	+ 0.70	0.94
Us Smlr Cos #	69.84	74.29	+ 0.31	0.80
Extra Income Inc	48.60	51.70	+ 0.33	8.23

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 600 526

American	178.30	188.80	+ 1.00	0.42
Convertibles #	22.43	23.83†	+ 0.02	5.87
Equity Income #	139.80	148.50†	+ 1.20	4.04
Eurofund	63.79	67.52	- 0.35	0.89
Financial	54.78	58.18	+ 0.36	1.55
Growth & Inc #	284.50	302.30	+ 2.30	2.97
High Dist #	175.70	186.70	+ 1.60	4.23
International	451.20	479.40†	- 0.60	0.10
Int Cap Inc	105.50	112.60†	- 0.70	2.58
Latin American	33.65	35.75	+ 0.25	
Pacific	87.80	93.08	+ 1.47	
Prel High Inc	21.61	22.96†	- 0.43	7.84
Tokyo	240.10	254.80	- 6.80	
UK Smaller Cos	268.30	285.10	- 4.90	1.05
Dynamic Und Trusts				
European Gwth	106.00	155.00	- 1.60	1.01
Fixed Income	245.80	262.20	+ 3.00	0.23
New Asia	112.80	125.40	- 3.30	
Japan Growth	117.80	125.40	- 3.30	
Smaller Cos	243.70	261.00	+ 4.60	0.66
Worldwide Equity	75.77	78.93	- 2.03	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.47	92.47	+ 0.08	5.20
Homemaker Fund	92.36	98.26	+ 1.21	1.54
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European	75.28	80.08	- 0.74	0.74
Recovery	188.50	198.40	- 0.90	1.77

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
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Equity Dist	933.70	948.30†	- 16.90	3.55

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 690 370

Fellowship Tst	112.10	119.20	+ 0.10	1.09
Income #	284.00	302.10	+ 3.50	4.19
-do- Accum #	743.50	790.90	+ 9.40	4.19
Smaller Cos	297.30	252.40†	- 0.40	0.91
-do- Accum	294.60	313.40	- 0.40	0.91
Gth Portfolio	101.80	108.30	+ 1.00	1.57
High Inc Pref #	82.37	87.62	+ 0.76	4.34

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0171 470 1634

Euro Small Cos	1706.60	1769.90	- 2.30	
Japan Small Cos	1329.20	1393.30	- 31.30	
UK Small Cos	2221.90	2309.80	- 3.20	2.67
US Small Cos	2178.50	2224.00	+ 3.60	0.93

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 327 6619

Dsc Inc	233.70	246.00†	- 0.20	2.93

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
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UK Balanced Inc	164.30	174.70†	+ 3.10	1.85
UK High Inc Inc	171.60	182.50	+ 2.60	3.74
-do- Accum	251.70	246.40	+ 3.80	3.74
UK Earnings	57.82	61.45†	+ 0.35	6.02
Emerimd Opps	98.64	108.00	+ 0.70	0.94
Us Smlr Cos #	69.84	74.29	+ 0.31	0.80
Extra Income Inc	48.60	51.70	+ 0.33	8.23

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
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UK Div Gth	30.65	32.78	+ 0.58	3.23
Equity Funds:				
ASEAN	69.83	74.55	+ 0.65	
American	317.50	336.50	+ 2.60	0.13
Amer Spec Sits	187.80	200.30	- 2.50	
Asian Smaller Cos	38.36	40.91	- 0.5	
European	226.60	241.00	- 3.10	0.55
European Opp.	80.79	86.91	- 0.16	0.62
Global Inv	31.30	33.28	+ 0.21	0.34
UK Growth	121.50	129.20	- 0.70	1.11
Growth & Inc	172.10	184.10†	- 1.70	2.55
Intl Eqty	47.09	50.07†	+ 0.21	0.97
Japan Spec Sits	96.66	102.80	- 2.24	
Japan	189.70	201.40	- 4.10	
Managed Intl	348.50	369.80	- 0.70	0.51
Moneybuilder	87.80	93.20	+ 0.36	
Recovery	82.54	86.61	- 1.16	1.62
Small Cos	184.50	196.90	- 2.40	0.99
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Specialist Funds:				
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Cap Philo	163.30	166.00	- 1.20	0.91
Capital Opps	128.80	130.70	- 0.40	1.93
Growth Inc	87.16	87.98	+ 0.66	0.95
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Emrg Asia	102.10	107.80	+ 1.10	
High Income	21.21	23.02†	+ 0.11	9.17
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BABY BLUES 34

The high cost of childcare for working parents

WEEKEND MONEY

FLYING THE FLAG 41

Reach for the sky with BA and BAA shares



Rocky road of student travel cover

It's a bit of a scramble finding the right policy at the right price, says **Sara McConnell**

The mass exodus is beginning. Students liberated from end-of-year exams are packing up and leaving for long trips abroad. Travel insurance is likely to be well down their list of priorities.

But cover for long trips at a reasonable cost takes some tracking down, as twins Louise and Clair Shaw have found. They are leaving for Colorado at the end of this month for an eight-week field trip mapping rocks as part of their geology degree at Durham University. But so far they have had a fruitless search for travel insurance.

Louise explained: "What we will be doing is not quite mountaineering, more a bit of climbing and scrambling. We will be spending eight weeks in the Rockies, living over a mile high and climbing 500 to 600 feet a day. We'll be attached to the University of Colorado and their staff will be with us".

Thomas Cook's initial quotation for the twins immediately doubled as soon as the mountain activities were mentioned. STA, the student specialists, quoted about £70 but doubled this to cover walking and scrambling. Both insurers said these counted as climbing and loaded the premium accordingly.

Weekend Money offered to do some research on the Shaws' behalf.

Worldwide Travel Insurance (01732-773366). Worldwide's Long Stay plan provides cover for between two and 18 months, but can be extended at the company's discretion. It would charge the Shaw twins £43 each for basic cover and £63 each for extended cover. It does not include baggage in its basic cover, arguing that most students do not travel with expensive clothes or jewellery. Cancellations and curtailments and legal expenses are also excluded.

Both policies include £5 million of medical insurance, £15,000 of personal accident cover, £2 million of personal liability and £250 for loss of passport. Mountain walking would be covered at no extra cost.

Inter Assurance *(01252-717766).* It also has several levels of cover for up to four months. The Shaws would pay £49 for the most basic, bronze, cover which includes cover of £1 million for medical expenses, £500,000 for emergency repatriation and £10,000 for personal accident. It has no cover for personal liability, which could prove an expensive mistake in the US. Silver cover, the next level up, would cost £53, and includes £1 million of personal liability and £25,000 of legal expenses.

It does not cover baggage, delays or cancellations. Gold Plus would cost the Shaws £67 and includes cover for luggage and cancellations, as well as £10 million medical expenses. Mountain walking or scrambling would not cost extra.

Columbus (0171-422-5505). Columbus' basic Globetrotter policy, with no extra charge for mountain scrambling, would cost the Shaws £43, including £1-million of medical expenses, £1 million personal liability and £10,000 of legal expenses. The more expensive Worldwide Standard policy, which includes £5 million of medical cover as well as £500 for baggage, would cost £58.

STA (0171-361-6100). STA was mystified when told Louise Shaw had been quoted a loaded premium for mountain walking and said this would not cost extra. The cost for the Shaws would be £70 for a standard policy which would include £1 million of medical insurance, £500,000 of personal liability cover and cover for luggage and cancellation.

Thomas Cook (01733 503222) For eight weeks Thomas Cook would charge £109.85. This does not include a loading for mountain walking and has unlimited medical cover, £2 million of personal public liability insurance and cover for luggage, cancellations, legal expenses and loss of passport.



PICTURES

Boulder-bound: Marlow twins Louise and Clair Shaw can't wait to get to Colorado

Pearl lifts hopes for bonus rush

Pearl's announcement yesterday that it is to pay a special bonus to its with-profits life and pensions policyholders has raised hopes that other life companies may take the same route (Marianne Curphey writes).

Within the past year some of the big life insurers have looked into ways of redistributing the surplus funds in their life policies. These so-called "orphan assets" have been built up over the fund's life.

They are amounts in a with-profits life fund beyond what is needed to meet the reasonable expectations of policyholders. They have accrued because past profits from investments have exceeded the actual payouts given to policyholders, and the maximum management fee has not always been charged to the life fund. Profit is also made from early surrenders.

Among listed life companies, the orphan assets arise because shareholders originally put up equity capital to support the development of the long-term insurance fund. The whole life industry is estimated to have a surplus of between £35 billion and £40 billion.

Subject to approval from the Department of Trade and Industry, Pearl is to declare a special bonus totalling £350 million, which will be split 90:10 between policyholders and shareholders. Bonuses will be added to policies held by approximately two million qualifying policyholders later this year.

In March the Prudential, Britain's biggest life insurer, announced it had begun talks with the Department of Trade over redistributing surplus assets. Last month Pru said discussions were "ongoing". A number of companies have declared bonuses or have started talks with the DTI, including Legal & General, London & Manchester, Britannic and Refuge. Pearl said policyholders have an average 4.4 policies each, which means they are in line for several bonus payouts.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Students learn lesson in debt

Students owe nearly £2,000 on average to banks, their parents and the Student Loan Company, a third more than last year, according to Barclays Bank's latest student debt survey.

However, students are becoming increasingly resourceful in the face of dwindling grants and growing debts. More of them are adopting US-style college survival tactics, using their own savings earned through working before they go up to university and continuing to work part-time once they get there.

Barclays found that more than half of first-year students had saved to go to university, with an average fund of £1,074 each. During term, growing numbers of students take part-time jobs to keep their debts under control and pay for a social life, working for 12 hours a week and earning £52 on average. In spite of the pressures of finals, third-year students were most likely to be working part-time to pay off accumulating debts. More women took part time jobs than men.

Parents are also proving a valuable and generous source of funds, with 36 per cent of students saying that their parents are their main source of income, compared with 34 per cent last year. Even more generously, many parents appear to expect no repayment. Just 8 per cent of students' total debt, £156 on average, was owed to parents.

Borrowing from banks as a proportion of overall debt has also dropped, falling to 18 per cent this year, from 25 per cent in 1992. Much more is owed to the Student Loan Scheme. A majority of students owe an average of £1,324 to the scheme, an increase of 36 per cent on last year and the largest single debt for most students. The maximum loan for someone living away from home in London in 1996-97 will be £2,035 for a full year. Out of London, the maximum is £1,645. Interest is added each year at the rate of inflation for the previous year and the loan has to be repaid over a fixed five-year or seven-year period, depending on the length of the course.

But only 10 per cent of respondents said that the Student Loan Scheme was their main source of income. Nearly half the students questioned still relied mostly on shrinking student grants, even though the maximum on offer for a student living away from home in London will be £2,105 and the maximum outside London will be £1,710.

Students confessed to being resigned to debt, but 39 per cent also said that they were "worried, concerned or angry" that they were being forced into debt. In some cases, according to Alison Roylance, student business officer for Barclays at Manchester Metropolitan University, the cost of hall fees for the year can wipe out the whole of a student's annual grant in one fell swoop. She said: "The greatest financial concerns for students are simply meeting day to day living expenses, particularly accommodation".

SARA MCCONNELL

When the many are the few

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Tony Blair's mark 0 manifesto is about attitudes more than actions. It is designed to show that Labour really is new. Principles that would dictate policy as events unfold in office matter more in the end than a few commitments ahead of time. On the economy, collectivist democratic socialism has been replaced by the vaguer "stakeholder" idea of "an economy run for the many and not the few".

What does this mean in practice? Private investors need to know the answer to one question in particular: are we the many or the few?

About 10 million British people own shares individually, rather than just through trusts and funds. The number varies, rising with the latest privatisation or popular flotation, edging back down towards nine to nine-and-a-half million in between. This summer, Railtrack and British Energy will swell numbers a bit. Before Gordon Brown could draw up a post-election Budget, it should reach a new peak, nearer 12 to 14 billion, after a mass of top building society conversions.

On the face of it, this puts private shareholders firmly among the many. After all, there are a comparable 11.1 million men or 10.9 million women in employment. Individual shareholders outnumber people who work in manufacturing by two-and-a-half to one, and outnumber the self-employed three to one. These are scarcely the privileged few.

Like any other party, Labour promises to promote savings and investment. Clearly, savings are for the many and a good thing. If savers invest in company shares, however, it looks as though they would be transformed magically into the few, regardless of numbers.

In principle, Labour is not hostile to private business. In practice, it has besieged the biggest single business sector — utilities. Most have been privatised, so the bills we have to pay for basic household services now go to make private profit for "the few". This populist campaign has been a good little vote earner. But it has strong implications for how Labour might behave in office. The vast majority of small shareholders have holdings in privatised utilities, many in nothing else.

Of the 20 companies with the most shareholders, 12 were in the public sector in 1984, when British Telecom became the first privatisation designed to be sold to the mass of ordinary people. Nearly 2.4 million still own shares in BT. British Gas has about 1.7 million, National Power and Powergen about 2.2 million between them, and the remaining independent regional water and electricity companies a similar number.

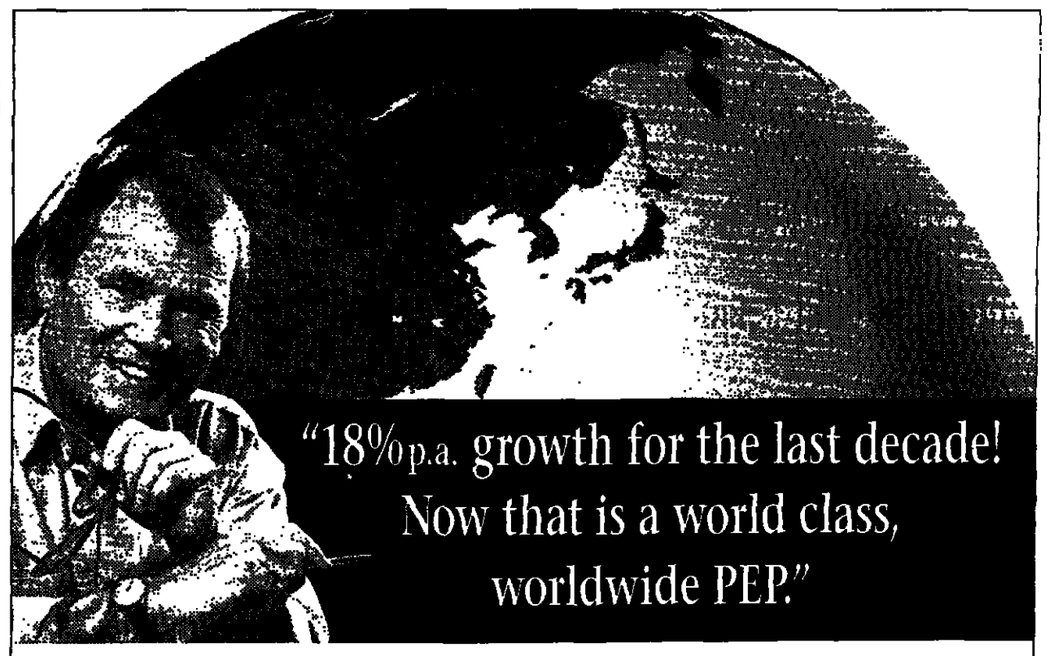
For a government in need, a levy on utilities that have made windfall gains can be justified pragmatically, like Lord Howe's 1981 levy on banks that made windfall profits on current accounts from a jump in interest rates. Some utilities have made windfalls.

Most electricity and some water groups have paid billions in special capital dividends, implying they did not need all the money with which they were endowed. They could meet a £3 billion levy, if it really was a one-off. Others, such as British Gas and BT, have done badly for investors already, thanks to hostile changes in state policy.

Labour's utility monopolies levy still appears to apply to all, according to Mr Brown, because they have made "excess" profits. Clearly, he is as eager to punish shareholders as to raise cash.

Attempts to identify these or other companies with "fat cat" directors, who are quintessentially the few, will not fool the many. Tories, who melded the identity of interest of companies and ordinary savers through mass privatisations, have forgotten it. No wonder Labour seeks to undo the link between the saver and the company that provides the returns on saving. What is true for utilities now would be true for others under the financial pressures of office.

Before Mr Blair writes his real manifesto, he needs to decide whether small investors would be us, or still them, under new Labour.



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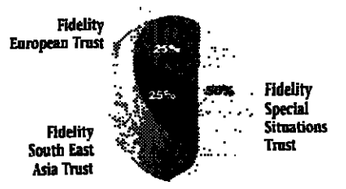
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Karen Zagor offers daunting calculations on the subject of babyminding

How working parents feel the bite of paying for childcare

FEW parents will be shocked by a report, published last week, showing that a dearth of affordable, quality childcare is keeping women out of the workforce. But a survey, conducted for *The Times* by KPMG, makes sobering reading for those contemplating trying to balance work and family life.


Alan Weller

Feeling the pinch: Amanda and Andrew Spalding are paying £145 a week to have baby Helen looked after carefully at the Fleet Street Nursery

We tend to think of our income in gross (pre-tax) terms, while thinking of our expenses in net (post-tax) terms. To calculate the true cost of child care, you need to remember that the amount you pay out each week comes out of taxed income. If you are paying someone £600 a month to look after your child, your annual outgoings are £7,200, but you will need to earn far more than that if you want to maintain your pre-child standard of living and still pay for child care. These figures do not include the additional expense of feeding and clothing a child, never mind the cost of books, toys and occasional travel.

According to the Daycare Trust, a childminder is one of the least expensive options available to working parents, with estimated costs ranging from £50 to £120 a week for a full-time place. A basic-rate taxpayer paying £50 a week would have to earn an extra £3,421 a year, before tax, just to pay for the childcare, according to the KPMG figures. To cover £120 a week, a basic-rate taxpayer would need a pay rise of £8,210, while a higher-rate taxpayer would have to earn an extra £10,400.

Working parents are feeling the bite. Amanda and Andrew Spalding both had satisfying careers before embarking on a family. When their baby Helen was four months old, she started to attend the Fleet Street Nursery, which is quite reasonable, by London standards, charging £145 a week. Although the Spaldings both have comparatively good incomes, they are still feeling the pinch. Ms Spalding says: "You have to earn a lot more when you pay for childcare to make it viable. The big crunch time comes when you want another child. The cost of two nursery places, even for high earners, is prohibitive." Indeed, you would need to earn more than the average salary just to cover the cost of having two children full-time at a mid-range private nursery.

Elspeth May, personal financial services partner at KPMG, notes that there are dangers in having to earn more in order to pay for childcare. "For example, someone who is a basic-rate taxpayer, but close to the higher-rate threshold, could be taken into the 40 per cent band by the additional income they would need to generate to cover child minding costs."

Ms Spalding, a freelance consultant at Reuters, believes parents who pay for child care should be able to write off the expense against tax. Most parents would argue that paying someone to look after your child so you can return to work is a legitimate business expense, and you are also essentially paying another person's salary out of your own taxed income. Ms Spalding says: "As things stand, they make it very difficult to go back to work. The odds are stacked against women."

Part of the problem is that you cannot hunt for bargain basement prices of child care the way you might with other consumer services.

"It's not like leaving your car in the garage," said Ms Spalding. "A baby can't speak and can't tell you what happened during the day. You need to find someone with the right qualifications and experience who will put the child first and deliver the right level of care and love. I have friends who have had terrible experiences with child care."

So what are the options available to parents and how much more will they have to earn to cover the costs?

Childminders

A childminder is someone who is registered with the local authority and who looks after no more than three children under the age of five in his or her own home. Estimated costs range from £50 to £120 a week, which translates into added income requirements of £3,421 to £8,210 for a basic-rate taxpayer and £4,333 to £10,400 for a higher earner.

Nannies

A nanny looks after your child in your own home. Costs vary wildly, depending on where you live, whether the nanny is living in and whether the nanny has any formal qualifications.

Estimated costs range from £80 to £260 a week. A basic-rate taxpayer would need a pay rise of £5,474 to cover the cheapest nanny, rising to a staggering £17,789 to pay for the most expensive.

The picture is even bleaker for higher-rate taxpayers, who need to earn an extra £6,933 to £22,533 to cover the cost of a nanny. To make matters worse, anyone who employs a nanny is responsible for their tax and national insurance payments. This usually adds about a third extra to the cost.

Nurseries

Nurseries allow for a large number of children to be looked after away from their homes. Private day nurseries charge about £70 to £180 a week for a full-time place.

For a basic-rate taxpayer, this means earning between £4,789 and £12,316 a year gross just to cover the costs. Higher-rate taxpayers would need to generate extra income of between £6,066 and £15,600 to pay for one nursery place.

Community or council nurseries may be less expensive. Some offer a few subsised places on a sliding scale, depending on income, with free places for the children of people on income support and those in crisis. For someone in employment, a place in a community or council nursery could cost up to £150 a week. This means earning an extra £10,253 a year for a basic-rate taxpayer and £13,000 for a higher-rate taxpayer.

Playgroups

Children can go to playgroups for up to five sessions a week for a few hours every day. The Preschool Learning Alliance estimates average charges at £2.25 per session.

On a five-day-a-week basis, this can add up to £585 a year. A basic-rate taxpayer would need to earn £770 to cover the cost, while a higher-rate taxpayer would need to earn £975.

Daycare Trust is publishing a comprehensive guide to childcare (funded by Midland Bank), called Check Out Childcare, later this month. For information, contact the trust at 4 Wild Court, London WC2B 4AU; tel: 0171 405-5617, or send a cheque for £5.

Not all corporate bond Peps are equal


Kenneth Clarke barred financial services

A year ago today, the corporate bond personal equity plan (Pep) was born, without much celebration and amid considerable controversy. Although some £1.3 billion has now been invested in this latest member of the Pep family, concerns remain.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the yields offered by different plans cannot easily be compared, as not all fund management groups take into account their charges in yield calculations. These charges include initial and annual fees, which can have a large impact on the overall return.

Any investor asking for this information would be unlikely to receive clear answers.

Jason Hollands, of BESt Investment, the Pep research house, said: "Even we have difficulty obtaining this data, as some groups seem incapable of calculating the gross redemption yield figure. We think that the City watchdogs should address this problem.

"We are also concerned that so many of the yields used on Pep brochures are out of date. Investors should be aware that the yield is not fixed. It fluctuates with the values of the bonds held in the Pep."

The possibility of misleading yields was among the problems anticipated in July 1995 when corporate bond Peps made their debut. Their launch had been delayed by taxation arguments and differences of opinion over which types of bond should be eligible. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had ruled that bonds from financial companies would not be eligible, as Peps were intended to provide finance for industry, not for the financial services sector. Despite protestations, his view finally prevailed. From the outset, there were concerns that the new plans would be too risky for their target market, the disaffected building society saver. Corporate bond Peps invest in the fixed interest stocks that are issued by companies as a way of raising money. Although the rate of interest is fixed, the prices of bonds vary with the fortunes of the company.

A year later, the promise that bonds would pay a higher income than building societies had held true, with £1,000 invested earning an average £71 interest, twice that earned in a building society. But anyone choosing a bond still needs help. BESt Investment (0171-321-0100) publishes a free guide to the best buys. For a free factsheet, contact the Association of Unit Trust and Investment funds (0181-207 1361).

ANNE ASHWORTH

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Legal aid system takes lead from internal market

Sweeping measures to change the way legal aid is awarded were unveiled by the Government this week. This is the biggest shake-up of the scheme since its creation 46 years ago and a White Paper has set out the first controls on what has always been a demand-led scheme. Weekend Money looks at the effects.

Q What is new about the proposals?

A For the first time, defendants will be asked to pay a fixed sum, possibly up to £20, for legal help in criminal and civil courts. Everyone, except those on benefits, will have to make a minimum contribution. The aim is to discourage frivolous lawsuits. Anyone who loses a civil case will be liable to pay the winner's costs, which they rarely do at the moment.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern hopes to introduce legislation in the autumn to impose cash limits on the £1.4 billion scheme. The Bill would also bring in a merit test, so that only the most deserving cases would be funded.

In effect, the plans will introduce elements of the private sector and an internal market similar to that now operating within the National Health Service.

Q Who would provide the service?

A The Legal Aid Board would award block contracts with fixed prices to law firms and advice bureaux. Legal firms would no longer be paid on hourly rates and the proposals include a flat-rate fee in civil and family cases, payable by all. Insurance companies are likely to enter the market to offer schemes mixing public and private funds to back legal actions.

In addition, legal advice on a "no win no fee" basis may play a significant part in cases. There will be an upper limit on contributions from individuals, and there may be a time limit set for payments. The Legal Aid Board will be able to recover any outstanding costs from the future sale of a legally aided person's house.

Q What do the critics say about the scheme?

A The Law Society says poor people would be hit hardest and litigants would face a lifetime of debt if they lost their case. There are suggestions that the move would lead to a "two-tier" system of justice, one for the rich and one for the poor. There have also been claims that it restricts choice and fails to increase eligibility for help with funding cases. In response, ministers believe that lawyers have a vested interest in keeping legal aid bills high and encouraging them to increase.

Q How does the present system work?

A At the moment, people can secure a handout so long as they are poor enough and can claim "reasonable grounds" for going to court. Under Lord Mackay's plans the budget will be capped in advance, so the Legal Aid Board knows exactly how much cash is available each year. Currently, only half of households in Britain qualify for legal aid, compared with 70 per cent in the early 1980s.

Q Which people might be excluded?

A Foreigners living overseas would no longer get help with their cases. This follows a number of high profile cases where legal aid was felt to have been inappropriate. They include the German Andreas Pavel, who sued Sony claiming that he was the true inventor of the Walkman, and Jawad Hashim, one-time aide to Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, who was given £4 million to defend a £34 million civil fraud claim, even though he had six homes. A special unit will investigate "apparently wealthy" applicants.

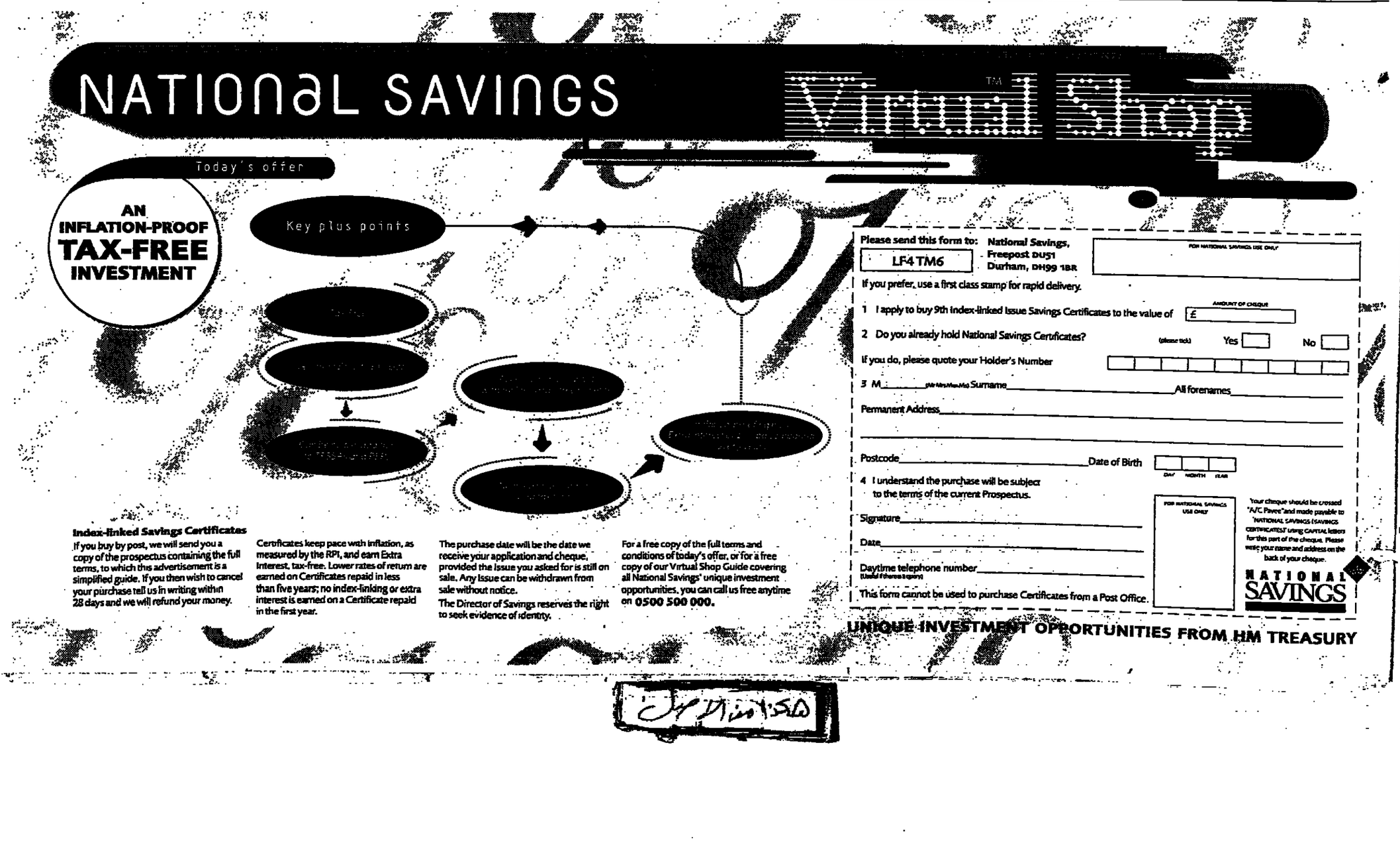
Q How long will the proposals take to be implemented?

A Some of the proposals do not need legislation and are already being implemented. Advice agencies are to be brought under the scheme immediately, so that they can be awarded contracts in the same way as franchised law firms are now. Others will be phased in over several years. Legislation is needed for the new merit test and the rules to make people contribute towards their legal aid fees. Officials hope to cover the reforms in one Bill.

Q What are the current costs?

A In 1995-96 legal aid cost the taxpayer £1.4 billion, twice as much as five years ago. The average cost of legal aid bills has risen more than the rate of inflation and stands at nearly £2,500. However, fewer people are helped by the scheme. The Government believes that the reforms will find favour with the public, especially those all-important voters in Middle England, on the grounds of giving the taxpayer better value for money and ensuring that middle-income groups are not vulnerable to an open-ended legal aid ticket to sue.

MARIANNE CURPHEY





COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

In training for the opening of windfall season

BY WAY of consolation for football and tennis defeats, low interest rates and other disappointments, we can look forward to a new season of a favourite national sport, spot the windfall. Thousands of policyholders and savers, enough to fill Wembley dozens of times over, can participate, without training, or special skills.

Following Legal & General, Pearl is now set to redistribute its orphan assets, the sad name given to those funds which are in excess of its liabilities. With a payout in prospect, most of Pearl's with-profit life and pension policyholders can feel more sanguine about the company's middling investment performance. Those whose policies matured before July 4 are currently excluded. But they have time to mount a protest.

Pearl's announcement should serve as a spur to the Prudential and to Royal which are considering similar schemes. Policyholders at mutual insurers, such as Friends Provident and NPI, need not feel left out of the fun. A potential buyer for these businesses has emerged this week in the shape of the newly combative Woolwich Building Society.

Under John Stewart, its replacement chief executive, the society is determined to be seen as the aggressor. It is also eager to arrive at the stock market as soon as possible. This means that the four million members should get their free shares by July.

A bid, possibly of the hostile variety, for the Woolwich may still intervene, but customers gain either way. The 700,000 plus savers with Birmingham Midshires Building Society can also take heart. Like his predecessor, Mr Stewart would not be averse to a link with this society.

What other sport offers such possibilities?

Nice rates for some

WHICHEVER bank he chooses to patronise for his £15 million divorce loan, the Prince of Wales can be sure of a favourable deal. The heir to the throne will be able to borrow at very close to the base rate, paying about 6.75 per cent. There will also be no question of the payment protection insurance, so assiduously sold to the commoner, on the presumption that the future monarch's ability to repay and livelihood is assured.

These attractive rates should make the average mortal focus on the current range of car and personal loans. Looking at these rates — which range upwards from 14 per cent — should cause not an upbreak of Republicanism but fury that banks can still claim that a 16 per cent loan is a bargain buy.

The fault, however, lies in part with the public. A recent bank survey showed that three-quarters of those with personal loans had little idea what rate they were paying. A general ignorance about credit card terms also applies. In familiar fashion, most leading credit card companies have been slow to cut their rates, claiming that research shows we prefer extra services to lower interest bills.

While we continue to be so unobservant, and apparently so unconcerned, the banks will be more than happy to take advantage of our inertia.

Ups and downs of escalators

IN THEORY, the term escalator bond is certainly ambiguous, but, to date, not in practice. The thousands of fans of these popular savings accounts have always presumed that their income will rise each year for the three or five-year term of the bond. But, in the same way that escalators travel up or down, new escalator bonds are emerging which hold no guarantee of growth. You can, in fact, be left standing still.

As we report on page 39, the new Escalator Bond, being sold by the Newcastle Building Society, is linked to two stock market indices, the FT-SE 100 and the American S&P 500. Only if both indices rise, will the initial investment grow. The Newcastle may, if it pleases, offer a stock market bond. However, it should not disguise such an investment as a risk-free savings account, with a name that gives the promise of progress.

Can you spare me £20m or so?

Caroline Merrell finds out how much it costs to join the ranks of big borrowers

A settlement appears close in the protracted divorce negotiations of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Prince, it is rumoured, is preparing to pay £15 to £20 million in a lump sum rather than making annual payments to his spouse of 15 years. A *Weekend Money* survey found that this arrangement, preferred by the Princess, could cost her husband about £1 million in annual interest payments on a £15 million loan. According to Frances Hughes, head of family law at Bates Wells Braithwaite, the solicitors, a lump sum of this size would represent a generous settlement for a spouse of Diana's age. She added: "Clean-break settlement of this size are not unheard of, although they are rarer for younger women." The banks we asked had, in theory, nothing against lending this amount but were keen to emphasise that the terms of the loan would depend on the person. They would consider any assets, money or investments and their credit rating.

Only Midland was willing to say what it would charge for a loan of this size. A spokesman said: "The lowest interest rate we would charge on a loan of this size would be 0.35 per cent over base rate, which would be 6.1 per cent. This rate would only be offered to those considered low risk."

If Prince Charles fell into this category, his annual interest payments would start off at about £915,000. At the other end of the scale, for higher risk individuals, the rate would be 5 per cent above base, a rate of 10.75 per cent.

Colin Goodhead, of Lloyds, said: "£15 million is more of a business proposition than a personal one. Many things would have to be taken in to consideration including adequate security: the highest being cash."

Coutts, the blue-blooded private bank, refused to comment whether it was prepared to lend £15 million. A spokeswoman said: "The rates on all large loans would be individually negotiated. A large loan would be anything over £100,000. We do not have any published tariffs, the lending criteria would depend on the relationship we had with the customer and the terms of the repayment."

Those with more modest borrowing needs have three options. They can arrange a personal loan, take out an authorised overdraft or borrow on their credit card.

Interest rates on personal loans will vary according to the lender and the time given to repay the loan. For example, the Midland would charge those borrowing £5,000 over five years a rate of 14.9 per cent. Monthly repayments on a loan of this size would be about £116.27. The total repaid over the five years would be £6,975. Over three years, monthly repayments would be £170, and the total repaid would be £6,149.

Borrowers are also given the option of taking out loan-protection insurance. This cover would increase the monthly premiums to £193 for a three-year loan, £138 for a five years.

The personal loan rate compares with 16 per cent charged for an authorised overdraft, and 24.6 per cent for an unauthorised overdraft.

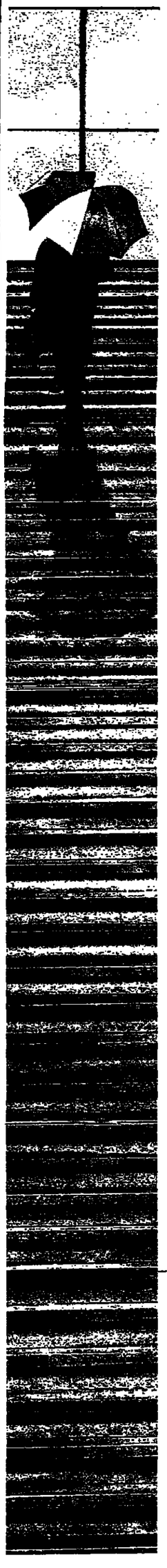
Lloyds Bank would charge 14.9 per cent for the same type of loan. Monthly repayments would be £116, or £139.85 with loan insurance. Its authorised overdraft rate is 18.8 per cent, while its unauthorised rate is 26.8 per cent, with no fee. TSB offers a discount on personal loans. For £5,000 loan would attract 1 per cent discount, bringing the rate down to 15.9 per cent. NatWest charges 15.9 per cent on a £5,000 loan. Monthly repayments on this would be £118.

For more personal loan rates, see page 36.

REUTERS



Together — yet apart: the Prince and Princess of Wales before the divorce settlement became a sticking point



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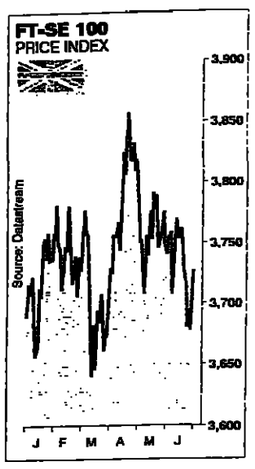
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Anne Ashworth on how political forces are affecting the stock market

Election fever has the City in a sweat



The preoccupations of Westminster and the City of London have seldom been more similar. Ask fund managers about the first-half performance of the stock market and their forecasts for the remainder of the year and the discussion immediately turns to the general election. The speculation surrounds Tony Blair's plans for the corporate sector and how much more Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will do to stimulate the economy.

Some managers see the Chancellor's low interest rate policy as purely cynical, especially as it does not coincide with the wishes of Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. But being realists they would not expect Mr Clarke to act otherwise, especially with an election in prospect.

Helped by the improving economy, some managers predict that the FT-SE 100 index will be as much as 5 per cent higher by Christmas. Another boost could be the return to the market of instititutional investors who have recently been selling shares. Others, like Rosemary Bain, investment director at the Gerrard Vivian Gray, the broker, see little reason why shares should be any higher than they are now.

Ms Bain said that the year to date had been marked by profit downgradings.

Ms Bain added: "Where companies have handed back cash to their shareholders, this money has not been going back into the UK stock market. It's been going into overseas markets and into gilts. Bid speculation is one of the few things that's holding up the market."

The FT-SE 100 index of leading shares reached a peak in April, boosted by takeover activity, falling interest rates and Wall Street's strong performance. Subsequently, the index has drifted listlessly.

Others take a more optimistic view, with some believing that if Labour has a commanding lead in the opinion polls towards the end of the year, a 'Blair rally' will result. However, some feel that politics will act to dampen the market.

Generously paid fund managers, with everything to fear personally from a party that has yet to declare its taxation intentions, are showing surprisingly little antipathy towards Mr Blair. His pronouncements to date have led most to believe that if new Labour gained power there would be no sweeping changes. They also like his pro-European stance — with one caveat. A fund manager explained: "The City wants a more sympathetic attitude towards Europe. But it does not support British membership of European monetary union."

Bill Mott, the highly successful manager of the UK funds at Credit Suisse, said: "The market is capped on the downside by improving corporate earnings and limited on the upside by political concerns."

Mr Mott predicts that if Labour takes power the overall level of the markets will remain largely unchanged. But various companies will come into favour, as a result of shifts in economic and taxation policy.

He said: "Some of the best-performing sectors of the market in recent years have been areas of long-term decline, such as banks, which have delivered shareholder values by cost-cutting, mergers and job losses. Labour may look at these companies and conclude that they have raised profits at the taxpayer's expense, laying off workers who then become social security claimants. A Labour Chancellor could then attempt to reverse this trend by giving special help to companies engaged in research and development and providing training. This would alter individual stock market valuations."

Ms Bain speculated that Labour might alter the taxation of dividends, making it more attractive for companies to invest their profits, rather than distribute them among shareholders.

Mr Mott points out that anyone wishing to anticipate this shift in emphasis should be looking at manufacturing companies with organic growth potential, such as SmithKline Beecham; at companies providing service to growth industries, such as Reuter; and at smaller companies with a reputation for product innovation. However, he added: "Now may be just too early in the current 'feel-good' cycle."

One major fund manager said that, over the next six months, he will be steering clear of utility stocks, anticipating a tougher regulatory regime under Labour, instead buying UK manufacturing stocks.



New statesman: Tony Blair hoped to raise his international credentials with his visit to Bill Clinton this year

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while **Sarah Jones** looks at growth in emerging markets after recent 'indigestion'

MARK OTTAWAY



The Mekong is just one of the more exotic places chosen for pioneering funds by British companies specialising in early state emerging markets

Foreign fields forever beckon

After a few years of what one fund manager calls "indigestion" the emerging markets have picked up over the last six months. The MSCI Index puts growth so far this year at 9.23 per cent, while other indices are as high as 12 per cent. Latin America and Asia both did well at 15 per cent and 11 per cent respectively but the index was pulled down by South Africa which declined 8 per cent. The outlook for the next six months is also optimistic.

In 1993 emerging markets grew a staggering 64 per cent. Partly in response to that and partly because of a crisis in Mexico, a dull couple of years followed. In 1994 and 1995 the markets declined 15 to 20 per cent. "Since last autumn the emerging markets have started turning round and the period of indigestion is over," says Peter Scott, chief executive of Beta Funds. "But in that period emerging markets have grown up and are more sophisticated. We won't be seeing the extreme volatility from now on, which also means there won't be the spectacular growth of 1993."

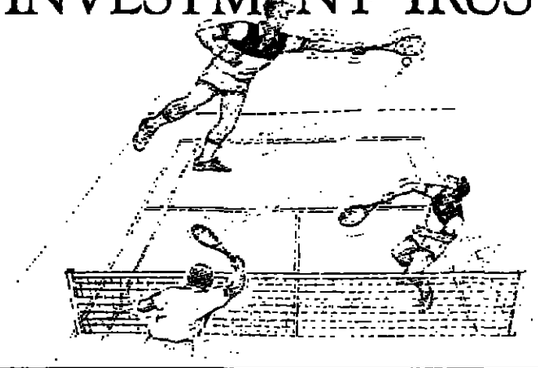
The growing-up includes less reliance on the developed markets. Mr Scott says: "Emerging markets will still get a cold when the US sneezes but the ups and downs in line with US interest rates will be less extreme."

Beta Funds specialises in what it calls early state emerging markets and is currently pioneering funds in Indo-China and the Mekong, Cuba and Beirut. Other providers include countries some would consider developed rather than emerging such as Hong Kong and Singapore. Most managers, however, tend to concentrate on companies within regions rather than countries as a whole.

The recent growth is down to relief that problems are being sorted out in Latin America and to a number of individual countries performing particularly well, including Poland and Russia. The prospects are promising for the next six months. "Emerging markets are like someone who has been in hospital — they are back at home but not yet back at work. They have had some catching up to do and we expect them to do more catching up over the next six months," says Douglas Adams, Templeton's marketing director. "There are good indicators like low inflation, strong growth and a trend towards liberalisation."

This week Schroders launched its Emerging Countries Fund investment trust, backing IMF forecasts that emerging countries will have annual growth rates more than double that of developed countries over the next three years. In particular Schroders is confident about India, Taiwan and Korea, Chile and Eastern Europe.

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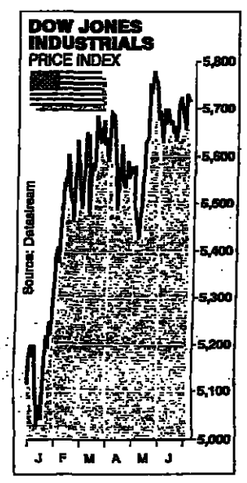
A US stunner — but will it all end in tears?

The United States was last year's market stunner. handsome growth, voluptuous profits and attractive dividends surprised the most optimistic observers — and the Dow raced from 4,000 to more than 5,000 over the year.

Over the past six months, the market has risen a further ten per cent, and warnings that a correction was overdue have been getting louder. But Hill Samuel Asset Management believes the market could rise by another five per cent by the end of the year, and predicts that the Dow might peak at 6,000 between now and December.

Katherine Jenkins, head of US equities at Hill Samuel, says the technology, retail and energy sectors have all performed well in the first half. She still expects technology to show some growth, and has high hopes for the service sector. "When at the beginning of the year we said we were expecting 10 per cent by the year-end, people howled with laughter," she said. "But it looks as though there could be even more growth to come."

John Wollocombe who heads the US equities desk at Guinness Flight, says the success stories of 1996 have so far been the technology and small companies sector. The rest of the year could see fund managers switching out of equities into cash if the Fed raises interest rates. The current bull run has been buoyed up by the strength of biotechnology and Internet-related stocks, according to Justin Urquhart Stewart of Barclays Stockbrokers. He expects retailing to remain strong, but growth in the mining sector to weaken.



The US presidential elections are due in November, which has caused some in the market to feel nervous. Mr Urquart-Stewart says: "President Bill Clinton is naturally a spending president but his activities have been curbed by Congress. If he is re-elected, it will make very little difference to the markets because he will not be able to spend as much as he would like. If Dole gets to power, the market will be a little more pleased because the Republicans have traditionally been seen as more friendly towards Wall Street. However, neither can spend much because the US is trying to get its debt down."

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Inscrutable Japanese market is on the rise

At the beginning of each year, for the past five years, leading investment pundits have been tipping the Japanese market as poised for recovery. Anyone taking the advice of the tipsters would have been sorely disappointed with the returns they would have reaped from plunging their hard-earned cash in to Japanese shares.

However, over the last six to twelve months, this prophecy would have been correct. Since the beginning of the year, the Nikkei index, the leading barometer of the Japanese stock market, has risen by about 12.5 per cent. This rise, which began about 12 months ago, is seen by many as the turning point in the economy.

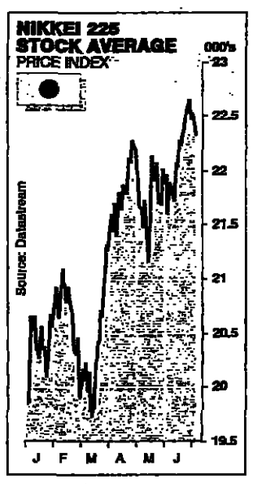
Over the last year, the Nikkei has risen by 50 per cent and now stands at a four-year high. Low inflation, practically deflation, low interest rates and streamlining by many of the Japanese companies has led to an influx of foreign money in to the shares of Japanese companies.

Unfortunately for those investing in Japanese funds over the last six months, this rise has largely been offset by weakness of Yen against sterling. The strength of sterling means that even if investment returns are good in the local currency, the profits will buy fewer pounds. Fund managers believe that the net returns for UK investors over the last six months would have been around zero. Over the next six months, however, many think the situation could be reversed and UK investors will begin to see some real returns on their investments.

Denis Clough, director at Schroder Investment Managers, said: "Some of the biggest gains have been in the manufacturing sector. Some of the electrical companies have done well, as have some of the real estate companies. The economy does not need the Yen to weaken for the market to continue to recover in the second half of the year."

Mr Clough continues to be keen on the electrical sector and also believes that insurance companies could provide some good results. He said: "There is a possibility that there could be a rise in interest rates, which could help the insurance sector."

Charles Prideaux, Mercury



assistant director, echoes Mr Clough's view. He said: "Over the last six months, the stock market has been responding to a weaker Yen, and there is increased evidence of domestic recovery. We should see increased growth, consumption and capital investment. Profits earnings have been rising at around 20 per cent a year."

He said the best sectors to have been invested in over the last 12 months were related to cars and machinery. "Honda and Toyota have performed very strongly — their share prices have come to life."

He, too, believed that electronics companies would continue to produce good returns for investors. He says the recovery in growth in these types of companies is because of increased demand for personal computers and mobile telephones.

Mark Fawcett, Gartmore senior fund manager, also emphasised the recovery in the property sector. "We are very positive about real estate," he said. "Land prices have been rising and the percentage of vacant office space has been falling. A year ago, 10 per cent of offices were vacant in Tokyo. This has now fallen to 5 per cent, and rental prices are now rising."

However, not all fund managers are bullish about the prospects for the Japanese economy. Andrew Hutchings, GT global funds co-ordinater, said: "I guess I believe that the land of the rising sun, is the land of falling prices and falling profits. Japan is still deep in a recession. Last year, for example, McDonald's cut the price of a Big Mac by a quarter. Over the last 12 months, car sales have been falling, and the growth of discount houses means the economy is really deflationary. On some measures, prices are down by 4 per cent.

"Plummetting prices are not the only problem with which the Japanese businesses have had to contend. The Yen has fallen and the cost of imports is up."

He added: "The rally has been driven by optimistic foreigners. The recovery is a triumph of hope over reality. Japan is still mired in a great depression, and the rally will not continue."

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Sara McConnell with good news for Londoners

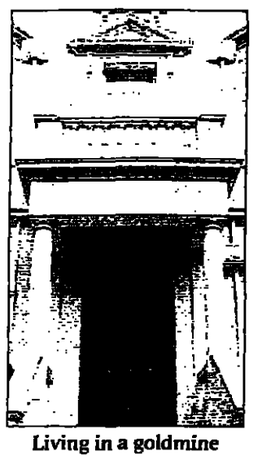
Prime freeholds rise 10% in a year

If you own a freehold family house in Kensington or Chelsea and do not want to move, fine. You are sitting on a potential gold mine, according to Knight Frank, the London estate agent. But if you do want to move, you will almost certainly find buyers fighting each other to exchange contracts first.

Prime London property, particularly freehold houses and properties whose leases have more than 100 years to run, is in big demand and short supply. Knight Frank's latest prime property price index shows a 9.9 per cent rise over the past year, with a 6.9 per cent rise in the past six months, mainly due to shortage of good properties.

Knight Frank said: "Prime housing shortages are becoming more acute in London with an insufficient supply of quality property both to buy and to rent commonly available . New development activity is set to alleviate this but the level of demand is such that prices look set to continue to rise, at least in the short term".

Freehold and long-leasehold properties, the most desirable, are being snapped up within a month of going on the market. Other slightly less prime properties take longer to sell, however, with many on short leases of less than 50 years taking more than a year to change hands. Knight Frank believes this is part of a "flight to longevity" by buyers, reinforced by reports in *The Times* and elsewhere of problems encountered by leaseholders trying to buy their freeholds and being obstructed by powerful landlords.



Living in a goldmine

The housing recovery in prime property is being mirrored, more feebly and patchily elsewhere in the country. Monthly price indices from the Halifax and Nationwide building societies show an annual rise in house prices of about 4 per cent, more than the rate of inflation.

But they agree with Knight Frank's analysis that shortage of supply is partly responsible for the price rises. Philip Williamson, Nationwide's corporate development director, added: "In the short to medium term, shortages of quality second-hand property, particularly in the middle to upper price range, will remain, restricting activity growth and further pushing up prices."

Prices rises have so far mainly been confined to the South. But this is good news for homeowners, also mainly in the South, trapped by negative equity, said Nationwide.

Moving my money proved a problem

From Janet Augustin

Sir, On June 21 I went into a branch of my bank, the TSB, to pay my MasterCard account. I handed the cashier the bill and £120 in cash, and asked her to transfer a further £20 to the Mastercard account from my current account, giving her my bank card to complete this transaction.

She immediately asked for further identification. Why? Because I was taking money out of my current account. But I am using it to pay another account; I am moving money from one TSB account to another TSB account, both in the same name. No cash is travelling from her side of the counter to mine. Nevertheless she insisted, otherwise my branch would be asked to fax a copy of my signature! I passed her my Mastercard, which apparently sufficed.

Now, if I had stolen a handbag and found a large wad of cash in it, I do not think I would have walked into the bank and used it to pay my victim's Mastercard bill. Moreover, if the handbag had contained the cheque card, it would have contained the Mastercard, too, rendering that useless as an identity check.

Yours faithfully,
JANET AUGUSTIN,
36 Park Royal,
Montpelier Road, Brighton.

Sixty years on, my NS account goes the same way as my village post office

From Mrs Jean Ward

Sir, This week I have, with some reluctance, closed my National Savings Ordinary Account after using it for more than 60 years.

I find it is no longer possible to use it easily although for many years it was my only bank account.

The minimum deposit is now £10 which means I am unable to pay in the cheque of £5.54 which I recently received from the Inland Revenue.

Another reason for closing the account is that Post Office Counters no longer has an outlet in our village and the company is unwilling to help the village by providing it with a few hours of Post Office service.

Is this not a sad reflection of the changing times in which we live?

Yours faithfully,
JEAN WARD,
6 Portway Gardens,
Aynho, Banbury,
Oxon.



Last post: the rural post office and village shop is a lifeline for many pensioners

☐ Letters to the Weekend Money section are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for the advice or statements given in these columns and it must be emphasised that independent professional advice should always be sought over all investment matters.

Letters to the Business News section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Self-assessment fraught with danger

From Mr John Evans

Sir, I have just spent a cold, wet and windy Saturday afternoon "doing my tax". My company was invited to participate in this year's voluntary self-assessment, to be followed next year, as I understand it, by universal self-assessment.

After three hours, I have hardly scratched the surface, and I am totally confused. I have concluded that we made a terrible mistake in allowing the Inland Revenue to persuade our leaders that self-assessment would be a good thing.

I am reasonably intelligent: I can string a few words together, and can add up a column of figures and often get the right answer. But I am beaten by this new challenge.

The sections covering pension tax relief are just one example where the confusing instructions mean that you could easily claim tax relief twice, or fail to claim for it altogether.

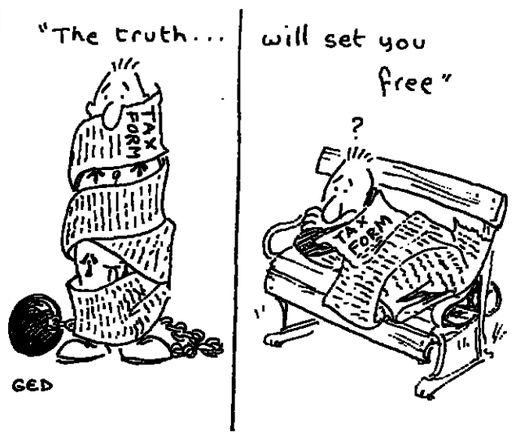
You see my dilemma — not only do I not understand the instruction, but I find myself in serious danger of getting relief twice (and presumably a spell in prison), or not claiming relief at the higher rate (with a spell in the poor house).

We have a veritable army of Inland Revenue clerks, all equipped with computer programmes perfectly capable of calculating our tax for us. Although they change the Tax Return forms slightly every year, most of us have learned to keep up with this and can cope with the system. Of course, we have a completely redesigned form, full of boxes and questions not previously encountered. The outcome will be millions of incorrectly calculated tax returns.

But there is something new. Many of us have become quite expert at opposing the Revenue's assessments and, with patience and stubborness, we have regularly obtained rebates. What happens now? We surely are not expected to fight ourselves?

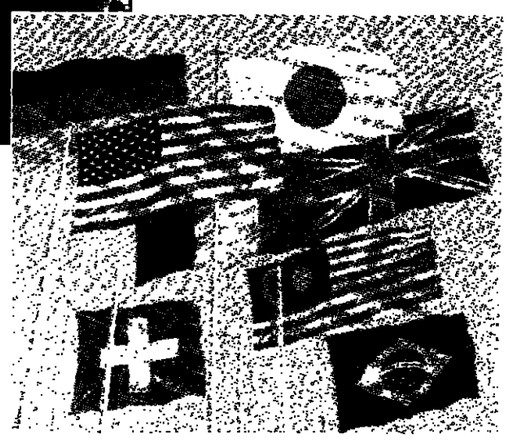
I strongly urge a rethink on this nonsense. It appears to be designed to put Inland Revenue clerks out of work and line the pockets of accountants.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EVANS,
Iona,
Strathallan Close,
Darley Dale,
Derbyshire.





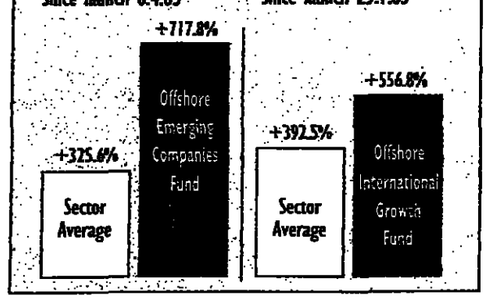
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Sarah Jones finds escalator bonds have their ups and downs

Bond buyer beware

Investors, it seems, commit themselves far quicker than Gazza. Show them an escalator bond guaranteed to rise to 9 per cent or more and they snap it up. Never mind that the high rate masks lousy rates in earlier years, or that they are tying the knot for up to six long years.

"Escalator bonds are simply a matter of packaging," says James Higgins at Chamberlain de Broe, independent financial advisers.

"By giving you less now they can give you more later. The chances are interest rates will go up over the next few years. So locking yourself now into an escalator bond is pretty brave, since we will soon start to see better rates from the building society anyway."

Escalator, or step-up, bonds run for three to five years, sometimes longer, and offer an interest rate that is guaranteed to rise, or step up, each year.

Interest is paid yearly or monthly at a slightly lower rate. The Cheshire Building Society recently withdrew its escalator bond, paying an average 7.75 per cent gross a year, after only three weeks because it was oversubscribed.

The Newcastle Building Society has taken the concept one step further — a bond can go down the escalator as well as up.

Its GA Escalator Bond is linked to the performance of the FT-SE 100 and the S&P 500. The initial investment will grow by 15 per cent a year, but only if both indices rise in that year.

So if the indices rose in three years out of the six-year term, a £10,000 investment would grow by 45 per cent to £14,500, which is the equivalent of 7.5 per cent a year.

Should one of the indices fall in each of the six years, then the investor is guaranteed to get back the initial investment but no growth. The minimum balance is £2,500.

This product is more akin to a guaranteed equity bond, and is offered in conjunction with General Accident Life. Gains on this bond are tax-free for basic-rate taxpayers, unlike an ordinary escalator bond where the interest is taxed.

"Most societies shelter behind the concept of no-risk investment. For a society to launch an escalator bond with few guarantees means it will either be hard to sell or investors will feel cheated if the investment falls," says an industry spokesman. The problem with the Newcastle bond, says Mr Higgins, is that it is a series of six one-year investments, since whether you get your 15 per cent growth or not depends on where the indices stand on August 1 each year. "The stock market never fits nicely into the calendar. The period from one calendar end to the next can be lousy, whereas if you take a whole six-year term then the chances are you get substantial growth. You need to invest over the whole six years, not over six separate calendar years."

Take, for example, the full calendar years from the start of 1989 to the start of 1995. Chamberlain de Broe calculates that over that term the FT-SE index actually moved up by around 75 per cent.

If an investor had enjoyed the yield as well, as you do with unit trusts, a further 25 per cent could have been earned.

Whereas over the same term there were only four years in which the FT-SE index closed higher than it opened, so the Newcastle bond would have earned the investor a total 60 per cent.

Therefore, if you are happy to go into equities, he suggests you take out a FT-SE tracker fund instead.

"Building society investors should not be fooled — this bond is a stock market gamble. It's not risk-free as is claimed because you are risking the income you would have earned elsewhere. If you are not inclined to gamble, look for a more conventional bond."

A more traditional escalator bond was launched this week. The five-year bond from the Woolwich pays 6 per cent gross in year one (5.84 per cent for monthly interest) rising to 10 per cent in year five (9.57 per cent monthly).

That averages out at 7.7 per cent gross a year (7.43 per cent monthly). Minimum investment is £1,000 and withdrawals are permitted after two years subject to the loss of 90 days interest.

If you are attracted by the high final rate on an escalator bond, make sure you average out the rates over the term. The Bank of Ireland, for example, pays 12 per cent gross in the fifth year, but on average pays 7.3 per cent a year.

Also, be certain you want to lock yourself in for the term. You will pay a hefty penalty if you want to withdraw before your time is up. No partial withdrawals are allowed and closures are not usually permitted within the first year.

IAN HODGESON/REUTERS



Will he, won't he? Gazza finally made up his mind

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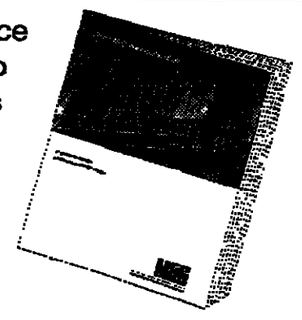
	Minimum Balance	1st Yr	2nd Yr	3rd Yr	4th Yr	5th Yr
Abbey National BS 0800 10080	5k	6.00	7.00	8.50	-	-
Bank of Ireland (GB) 0171 236 2000	5k	5.00	5.50	6.50	7.50	12.00
Bank of Scotland 0131 442 7777	5k	6.00	6.50	7.00	10.00	-
Barclays Bank 0800 400100	2k	5.75	6.00	6.25	7.00	10.00
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	5k	5.75	6.00	6.50	7.00	10.00
Dunfermline BS 01383 627727	2.5k	6.25	6.75	7.25	8.00	-
Coventry BS 0345 665522	2k	5.75	6.25	7.00	9.25	-
Halifax BS 01422 333333	2k	5.75	6.25	7.00	7.75	9.25
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	10k	6.00	6.50	7.50	8.50	10.00
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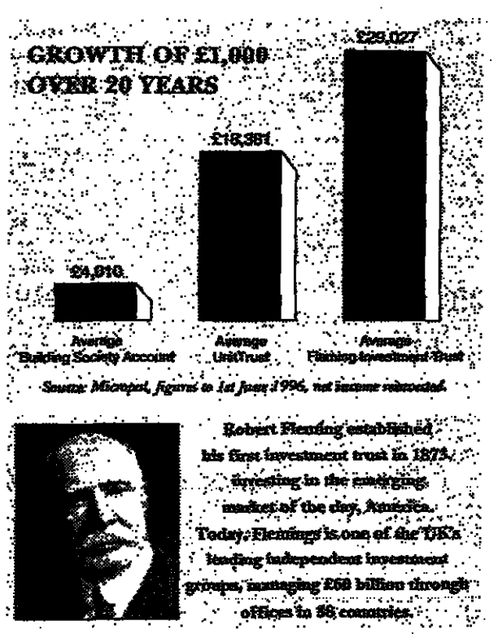
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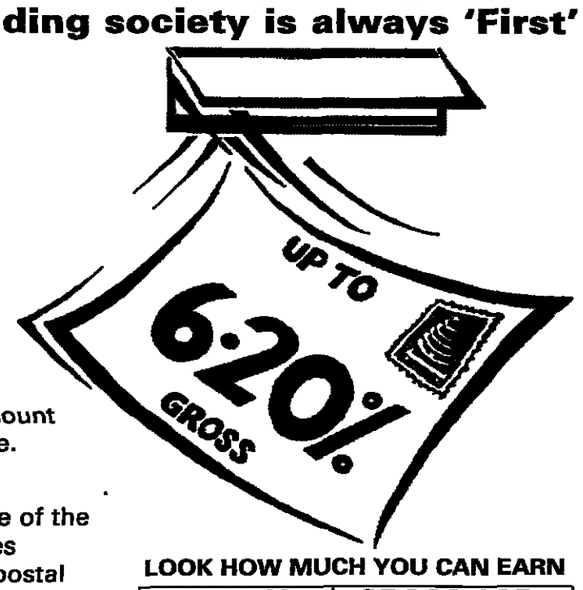
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Plastic rules the waves



HOLIDAY FINANCE

Credit and debit cards are now the traveller's friend, offering much cheaper rates for buying currency says **Caroline Merrell**

ANGUS MEWSE



Today's traveller would not venture from home without his plastic. Using your cards to get money while abroad is now the cheapest option, as a recent survey from *Which?*, the Consumers' Association magazine found. Its survey showed that the cost of withdrawing £500 in cash while overseas is about £16, while the average cost of exchanging £500 in a UK foreign exchange bureau is about £12 more, at £28.

But do not rely on credit or debit cards alone in case there is no handy ATM. Most travel companies recommend that a mixture of cash, cards and travellers cheques should be taken abroad.

The amount you will be charged for purchases made or cash withdrawn while on holiday depends on your bank. For example, for cash withdrawals on both credit and debit cards, Barclays will charge 1.5 per cent commission, with a minimum of £1.50. This is on top of 2.65 per cent the bank will charge for exchanging the money itself — a total of 4.15 per cent. Purchases abroad carry only the 2.65 per cent.

This may seem an excessive charge, but all banks work through the wholesale market. Its rate of exchange is about 5 per cent better than that offered directly to customers, which is why cards continue to offer the best deal in spite of the commission. Other banks offer very different rates. NatWest, which has a credit card which operates on the Visa, Cirrus and Mastercard network, will charge those withdrawing cash on its credit card 1.5 per cent plus a 2.75 per cent handling fee — a total of 4.25 per cent. But those using their NatWest debit card will only attract a 2.25 per cent charge, for cash or purchases.

Lloyds charges those who withdraw cash on its credit cards 1.5 per cent, plus a 2 per cent administration charge. TSB, now owned by Lloyds, has a different rate on both credit and debit cards equal to 1.5 per cent plus a 2.75 per cent handling fee. Midland credit card users will be charged 1 per cent for withdrawing cash plus a 2.25 per cent loading on the exchange. Midland debit card users will be charged 2 per cent for withdrawing cash plus the 2.25 per cent.

Another advantage of using a credit or debit card while abroad is that if the card is stolen and used, you will only be liable for the first £50 spent.

For those who run into money problems while away, some banks offer travellers access to information. Barclays has just launched the Barclays Travel Careline, open 24 hours a day for pre- and post-travel advice, while Lloyds has a 24-hour helpline.

One of the disadvantages of using plastic while travelling is that you will get the exchange rate which prevails on the day the documentation concerning your purchase or cash withdrawal reaches your account. This could be a few weeks after the purchase. A sudden slide in sterling in the intervening period could mean you end up paying more than intended. But this can also work in your favour. The Turkish lira, for instance, is very much in a state of freefall. Tourists in this holiday destination may find the silk rug they bought in an Istanbul market could be considerably cheaper by the time the bill reaches their account.

For other currency needs, holidaymakers have a wide choice. American Express charges a flat rate of £2 per currency exchanged, while Marks & Spencer, via its Pantheon branch in Oxford Street, central London, is offering a no-commission deal on foreign exchange transactions via Corporate Foreign Exchange.

Credit card? No francs

In spite of the strong franc, France remains a popular destination for many Britons. However, although you may be welcome in the land of gastronomy, your Barclaycard may be refused when you try to pay the bill for a culinary treat.

After reports that last summer the French would not take Barclaycards because their holder numbers had too few digits, cards are again being rejected — because they do not have a microchip.

Susan Fisher has lived for the past five years with her husband, Peter, in Le Bazas, a tiny hamlet in the Dordogne. Until April this year, Mrs Fisher had experienced no difficulty in purchasing goods using her Barclay Visacard. "Originally, we had an Access card but we stopped using it — the French didn't understand what it was. After we switched to Barclaycard, there were absolutely no problems."

However, after the introduction of new card reading machines in her area, her Visacard has been refused, to her acute embarrassment. "I would no longer attempt to use the card in a supermarket where there are long queues of people at the checkout. Having my credit card refused in public made me feel terrible."

Mrs Fisher's Barclaycard was first refused in a local gift shop in the town of Juillac, in spite of being armed with a copy of the standard letter issued by Barclaycard, explaining that British credit cards are not "des cartes a puce" (microchip cards), as issued by French banks, but contain a magnetic strip.

A Barclaycard spokesman said: "We are aware there have been problems, but they are easing and the situation is improving. We have been working with Visa and the French card schemes to make sure retailers are aware that they can accept cards that do not have a microchip. French machines should be able to accept all Barclaycards."

Although this may reassure travellers to the larger towns in France, the message to retailers is still not getting across. Mr and Mrs Fisher have now given up on Barclaycard and have opened a new account at Credit Agricole, their local bank.

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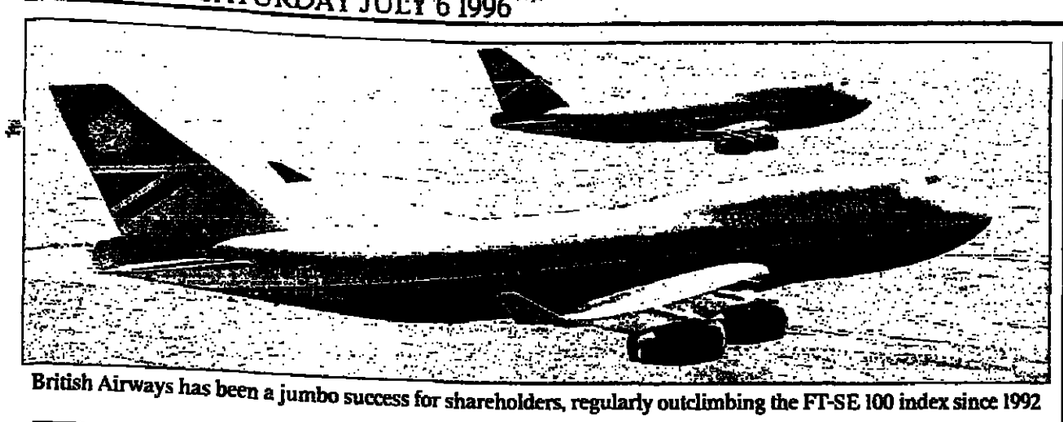
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British Airways has been a jumbo success for shareholders, regularly outclimbing the FT-SE 100 index since 1992

Reach for the sky with BA and BAA

POPULAR PRIVATISATIONS

A threatened strike by pilots may be casting a shadow over British Airways, but canny investors who looked to the skies and put their money into the BA and BAA (formerly British Airports Authority) privatisations in 1987 still will be sitting on a pretty profit. Even if a strike does take a toll on BA's share price, the impact is likely to be short-lived.

Sadly, for the man or woman in the street, the sell-offs were not publicised with the vigour of other launches.

How have the shares fared since 1987?

It has not been a smooth trip for BA shareholders. The shares were priced at 125p at the launch in February 1987, but by early 1988 they were lagging the launch price and by 1990, were trailing the FT-SE 100 index significantly. In January 1991, they hit a low of 119.79p. By the end of 1991, performance started to improve and the shares have consistently maintained a premium to the FT-SE 100 since.

In the past 12 months, BA shares have outperformed the market as a whole by about 16 per cent and in recent months they have flirted with record levels. More is expected of them if BA's plans for code sharing and co-operation with American Airlines are given the regulatory go-ahead.

BAA also made a slow start. The shares barely got off the ground at their launch in July 1987, and by December of that year, had hit a low of 115.5p, having been launched at 122.5p. From 1990 to 1994 they outperformed the market, but last year they underperformed, before spiking higher again this year.

How high are the dividends on the shares?

BA's dividends stood at 11.1p in 1994, 12.4p in 1995 and 13.65p in 1996. BAA's dividends advanced from 9p in 1994 to 10.125p per cent in 1995.

Why are the companies doing so well now?

Travel-related companies are notoriously sensitive to economic cycles. During recessions, people don't travel and profits dry up. Both BA and BAA are benefiting from economic recovery and an upturn in the travel market which started about three years ago. BA's financial performance has been particularly strong lately. A number of analysts upgraded their ratings after BA reported unexpectedly robust profits for 1995. The number of passengers has been steadily growing, and BA has also been able to increase prices steadily.

BAA is reaping the rewards of strong retailing operations at its airports, which bring in more money than departure taxes. BAA makes money from its rent charges to retailers, and to the retailers and the airlines that use its airports.

What does the market expect of BA and BAA?

For BA, the big question mark is the alliance with American Airlines. BA needs the deal to become a global player. Lufthansa has recently teamed up with United Airlines while Swissair has an alliance with Delta. If the deal falters, BA's share price will almost certainly slide, but most analysts expect it to clear the regulatory hurdles. There is a question of whether BA will have to forfeit Heathrow slots to US carriers as part of the deal, which could have a less dramatic impact on the share price.

BA has also said it needs to find £1 billion in cost cutting and revenue enhancements in the next three years, but most analysts are confident the company will manage.

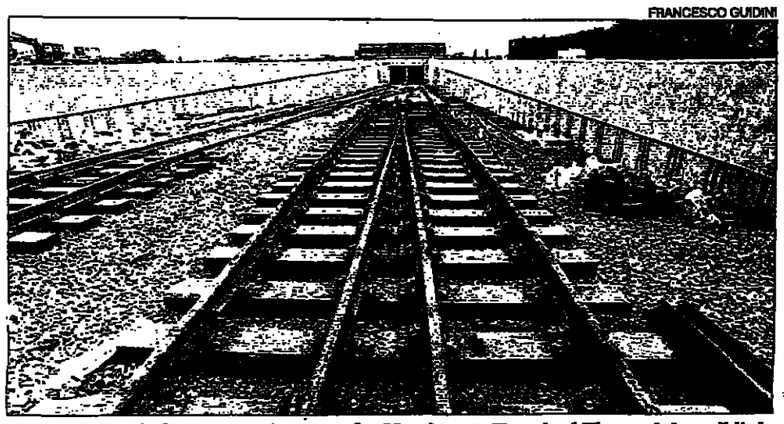
Andrew Couch, fund manager of Guinness Flight's Global Privatisation Fund, likes BA shares. "BA, unlike almost every other airline in the industry, managed to stay profitable through the recession, which is one of the reasons the stock is more highly rated than its European peer group. In the long term, the more BA establishes itself as a global airline — through its stake in Qantas and its planned link-up with American — the more it is likely to remain profitable over the economic cycle."

The outlook is certain for BAA, at least where share price is concerned. On the plus side, more people are expected to use BAA's airports, in spite of the Channel Tunnel, and this will continue to boost retail-related profits. The market, however, has already built the profits from retailing into BAA's share price.

In addition, Mr Couch notes that BAA is facing hefty capital expenditure in the next few years for contruction of Heathrow's Terminal Five and the rail link. "We are expecting the shares to slightly underperform the market."

KAREN ZAGOR

FRANCESCO GUIDINI



BAA is facing hefty construction costs for Heathrow's Terminal Five and the rail link

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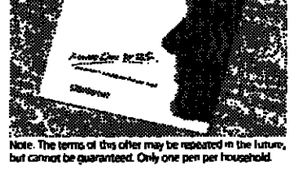
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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

How to safeguard your inheritance

The pitfalls of capital gains and inheritance taxes on gifts to friends and family can largely be avoided by planning ahead, explains *The Which? Guide to Giving and Inheriting*. Nowhere is this more crucial than in the area of inheritance planning as only four out of ten adults in Britain have made a will and nearly one in five wills are out of date. The book looks at some of the issues to consider if you plan to pass on your home and also covers charitable gifts which qualify for tax relief. Available from bookshops or on 0800 252100, price £9.99.

☐ There is now a legal requirement for occupational pension schemes to have at least a third of their trustees elected by members. A new survival guide for trustees has been launched by the Institute of Personnel and Development to ensure that anyone standing for election is aware of exactly what they are taking on, and avoids unwittingly falling foul of the law. The booklet explains the responsibilities of pension scheme trustees under the Pensions Act 1995 and includes information on the Government's intentions for regulations. *The IPD guide on Trusteeship and the Pensions Act 1995* costs £4.95 to IPD members or £5.50 to non-members. Call Plymbridge Distributors on 01752 202 301.

☐ It is important that savers understand how building society interest is taxed, says the Building Societies Association, which has updated its leaflet clarifying the tax position for 1996-97. *Taxation of Building Society Interest* includes a list of the circumstances under which societies can pay interest gross. The BSA has also published *Your Rights as a Member of a Building Society*, which lists the information members are entitled to and how to have a voice in their society's affairs. Send an sae to BSA/CML Bookshop, 3 Savile Row, London W1X 1AF.

☐ The latest edition of *Your Retirement*, published on July 25, gives tips on how to enjoy a more financially secure retirement. It covers subjects such as money and pensions, voluntary work, wills, social security benefits, care of elderly parents. Available soon from bookshops at £8.99.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Portman BS 01202 292444	Instant Acc	Instant	£100	4.80	Yly
Alliance & Leic BS 0645 645660	Instant Dir	Postal	£5,000	5.40	Yly
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2257755	Albion	Postal	£10,000	5.80	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Gt Nth Postal	Postal	£25,000	6.50	A/ Yly
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	**Account**	**Notice of term**	**Deposit**	**Rate**	**Interest paid**
Coventry BS 0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day p	£2,000	5.45	Yly
First National BS 0800 558844	90 Day Notice	90 day p	£10,000	6.20	Yly
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Scarborough 100	100 day	£1,000	6.50	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Postal Dep Bond	30.6.99	£2,500	7.50	F/Yly
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	**Account**	**Notice of term**	**Deposit**	**Rate**	**Interest paid**
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/Yly
NatWest Bank 0800 200400		5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/Yly
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721		5 year	£1,000	7.25	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£500	7.00	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.896%C	11.20%	Nil
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Access	0.95%N	12.00%N	Nil N
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.00%	£12

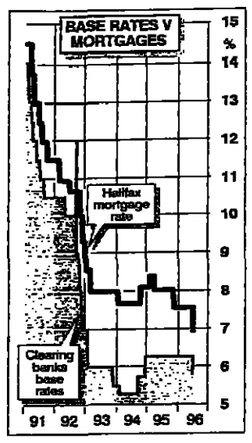
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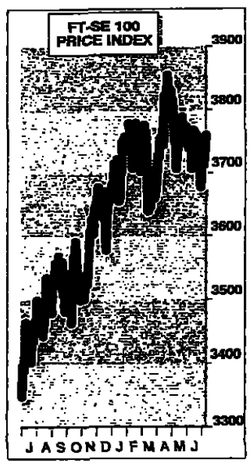
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Alliance & Leic Grp 0116 2626262	14.80%	£114.93	£102.36
Midland 0800 180180	14.90%	£115.82	£102.49

No. A = All withdrawals subject to 30 day loss of interest, C = no interest free period, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01892 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c†	1.75	1.40	1.05	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*§	5.00	4.00	3.00	20-500**	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* §	6.25	5.00	3.75	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond§	6.25	5.00	3.75	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
43rd Issue Certt‡§	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds §	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
9th Index Linked†§	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3 §	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000§	60day	0645 645000

† first £70 (£140 if int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 * Additional higher up to £50,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 yrs to 40.3% net bonus for £20,000+ -£100,000 if in addition to S1 and S2 holdings * Taxable but credited in full **£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential.....Level		£10,467	£11,495	£12,893
Stalwart * .....Level		£10,322	£11,359	£12,458
Sun Lf of Can.....Level		£10,255	£11,285	£12,693
Generali .....Level		£10,211	£11,238	£12,578
Canada Life .....Level		£10,058	£11,227	£12,810
SINGLE LIFE	**Female:**	**Age 60**	**Age 65**	**Age 70**
Norwich Un .....Level		£9,722	£10,458	£11,549
Prudential .....Level		£9,710	£10,443	£11,528
Stalwart * .....Level		£9,419	£10,307	£11,166
Sun Lf of Can.....Level		£9,526	£10,252	£11,330
Generali .....Level		£9,320	£10,163	£11,334
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	**Male:** / **Female:**	**Age 60** / **Age 55**	**Age 65** / **Age 60**	**Age 70** / **Age 65**
Stalwart * .....Level		£9,232	£9,905	£10,6[illegible]
Prudential .....Level		£9,323	£9,895	£10,703
Norwich Un .....Level		£9,301	£9,847	£10,637
Sun Lf of Can.....Level		£9,159	£9,720	£10,526
Generali .....Level		£9,005	£9,621	£10,473

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at July 2, 1996

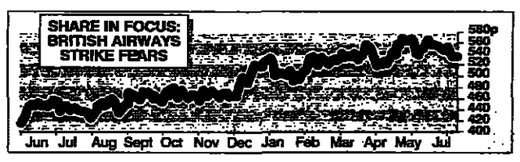
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	4.75
	10,000	AIG Life	4.85
	20,000	AIG Life	4.90
	50,000	AIG Life	5.05
2 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.30
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	5.70
	20,000	AIG Life	5.75
	50,000	AIG Life	5.85
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.75
	10,000	AIG Life	5.98
	20,000	AIG Life	6.08
	50,000	AIG Life	6.18
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.00
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.40
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.45
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.65
	15,000	Abbey Life	6.70
	50,000	Abbey Life	6.90

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	100.29	9.337	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	120.64	9.636	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	135.14	9.620	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	140.40	9.527	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	135.23	9.613	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	126.64	9.549	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	118.36	9.927	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	93.50	9.358	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	125.52	9.350	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	144.07	9.457	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	140.50	9.520	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	116.23	9.236	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	135.41	9.323	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	137.32	9.194	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	135.46	9.505	100.48	1,000
FLOATING RATE	**Gross coupon**	**Buying price**		**Issue price**	**Minimum purchase**
Cheshire (28/09-21/03)	8.58750%	104.63		100.00	1,000
First Nat(20/03-20/09)	8.70625%	101.13		100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent Interest-bearing shares
Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 608088	0.95	£15k+	90	Fixd to 30.6.97
Alliance & Leic 0181 742 0471	1.50	to £150k	95	Fixd to 1.6.97
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	0.99	£100-150k	75	High Equity dis 6% to 1.8.97
Banks				
Nat West Home Loan 0800 400999	1.64	£15k+	75	5.35% discount for 12 months
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	2.96	£20-145k	95	4.51% discount for 12 months

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.00	£1-150k	70	6.99% disc 9 months
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.05	to £150k	70	Super Fix. Rate for 12 months
Nottingham Imper. 0115 981 7220	0.49	£2k+	70	6.50% to 31.7.97
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Nat West 0800 400999	1.64	£15k+	75	5.35% discount for 12 months

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 608088	0.95	£15k+	95	6.04% disc 6 mth. 2% disc 6 months
Lambeth 0171 9281331	3.74	£15-150k	95	3.25% discount for 12 months
Halifax 01635 43676	4.33	any	95	2.66% discount to 30.9.98
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc 6 mth. 3% disc 6 months
Royal Bnk Scot 0131 523 4442	3.74	£15-150k	95	3.25% to 4.8.97

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Bisy's Guides Ltd. Further information: Bisy's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Aegon House, Lunark Square, London EC4 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	527.40	554.70	+ 5.90	...
UK Equity	674.00	713.30	+12.70	...
Property	539.20	568.00	+ 4.20	...
Fixed Interest	358.20	376.10	+ 1.30	...
Money	265.70	281.20	+ 0.20	...
International	452.50	478.90	+ 6.60	...
ABBEY LIFE				
Heidenhaus Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL				
01202 292373				
Custodian S4	193	203.20	+ 0.60	...
Ethical S4	159.40	167.80	+ 1.00	...
International S4	324.90	326.60	+ 1.20	...
Protected Gth S4	122.70	129.20	+ 0.10	...
Asian Pacific	217.80	229.30	+ 0.90	...
European S4	210.40	221.50	+ 0.60	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	386.40	406.80		...
Equity Ser 4	262.00	275.80	+ 1.90	...
Man Ser 4	773.40	814.30	+ 5.50	...
Conv Ser 4	348.70	367.10	+ 0.20	...
Money Ser 4	348.40	366.80	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	379.40	398.90	+ 2.20	...
American Ser 4	637.60	671.20	+ 3.50	...
Hlth Inc Ser 4	790.40	832.10	+11.30	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	254.90	268.30	+ 1.60	...
Japan Ser 4	366.70	386.10	+ 7.10	...
ALBANY LIFE				
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ				
01707 42411				
Equity Fd Acc	1873.90	1972.70	+20.10	...
European Fd Acc	472.50	497.10	+ 1.00	...
Fixed Int Acc	549.10	578.10	+ 2.80	...
Gld Money Acc	359.10	373.80	+ 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	758.10	797.90	+ 1.40	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	366.60	385.90	+ 0.10	...
Japan Fund	278.50	293.20	+ 4.30	...
N American Acc	420.50	442.60	+ 0.90	...
Prop Fd Acc	465.20	489.70	+ 2.40	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1209.30	1272.90	+ 6.60	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL				
01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	397.80	418.80	+ 0.30	...
Equity Acc	1682.30	1770.90	+ 2.40	...
Property Acc	629.40	662.50	+ 0.40	...
Far East Acc	361.90	380.90	+ 3.90	...
Managed Capital	667.20	689.50	+ 2.60	...
Abs Acc	1291.90	1349.40	+ 0.80	...
Overseas Acc	1740.20	1831.80	+ 8.00	...
Gilt Edged Acc	513.90	540.90	+ 0.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	1742.80	1907.50	+ 8.00	...
Amer Man Acc	439.40	462.50	+ 1.80	...
Amer Prop Acc	114.90	120.90	+ 0.10	...
Distribution Bonds	24.40	26.30	+ 0.10	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks				
01494 683483				
Retail Ser 6	173.30	182.40	+ 0.50	...
Balncd Ser 6	436.40	880.90	+ 4.20	...
Opps-munity Ser 6	194.20	204.40	+ 1.30	...
Distribution Ser 6	103.50	108.90	+ 0.10	6.99
UK Equities Ser 6	184.20	194.00	+10.00	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1943.70	1264.50	+12.80	...
North Amer Ser 6	620.10	652.70	+ 2.50	...
Far East Ser 6	622.60	655.40	+ 8.90	...
Europe Ser 6	477.40	502.50	+ 0.90	...
Intnl Ser 6	544.00	572.60	+ 1.80	...
Property Ser 6	987.30	618.20	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	481.40	506.70	+ 2.20	...
Ind-Linkd Sec 6	193.60	203.70	+ 1.50	...
Guard Dep Ser 6	316.60	333.20	+ 0.10	...
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9HB				
0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1014.80	1068.30	+13.60	...
-do- Initial	634.20	667.60	+ 8.50	...
Gilt Edged Acc	421.10	443.30	+ 2.50	...
-do- Initial	264.80	278.80	+ 1.60	...
International Acc	470.20	495.00	+ 1.40	...
-do- Initial	294.50	310.10	+ 0.90	...
Managed Acc	615.30	647.70	+ 4.20	...
-do- Initial	386.70	407.10	+ 2.60	...
Money Acc	309.50	325.80	+ 0.20	...
Property Acc	311.30	327.70	+ 0.30	...
-do- Initial	194.60	204.90	+ 1.20	...
American Acc	306.90	323.30	+ 2.00	...
Australia Acc	246.40	259.40	+ 4.40	...
Financial Acc	438.50	462.70	+ 7.60	...
50 Accum	533.00	561.10	+ 0.50	...
Japan Gen'l Acc	510.60	537.50	+ 7.00	...
Income Acc	549.10	630.70	+ 0.50	...
Leisure Acc	329.50	345.80	+ 2.60	...
Special Sits Acc	311.70	328.20	+ 1.60	...
Unit Tech Acc	189.20	198.20	+ 0.10	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF				
01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	934.82	934.82	+ 1.72	...
Income Fund	860.47	905.76	+ 3.87	...
Extra Income	780.15	821.22	+ 3.15	...
Worldwide Gth	566.40	595.15	+ 2.16	...
Balanced Fund	778.08	819.04	+ 6.09	...
Smlr Cos Recov	110.93	110.97	+ 5.43	...
N Amer & Genrl	457.98	482.09	+ 5.72	...
Pacific Basin	461.90	485.79	+ 1.19	...
German Growth	254.07	267.45	+ 3.11	...
Japan Growth	201.55	212.16	+ 2.14	...
The UK Gth Fd	252.28	265.56	+ 1.40	...
Comil Euro Gth	168.99	177.89	+ 0.91	...
Property Fund	417.56	439.54	+ 0.21	...
Fixed Interest	349.73	367.93	+ 1.29	...
Cash Fund	70.162	73.849	+ 0.18	...
Managed Inv	559.00	588.37	+ 0.90	...
Nth Amer Recov	340.09	357.99	+ 9.42	...
Abbrust Fund				
Managed Grth	540.71	569.17	+ 0.49	...
BRITANNIA				
50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR				
0141 248 2800				
Measured Perf	200.81	211.70	+ 0.40	...
Performance Plus	224.40	242.20	+ 1.30	...
With Profit Perf	183.60	194.20	+ 0.20	...
UK Opportunity	235.00	249.30	+ 2.90	...
Euro Opportunity	270.60	286.30	+ 0.70	...
North Amer Opp	227.60	240.80	+ 1.10	...
Far East Opp	223.50	236.50	+ 3.80	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	168.00	176.80	+ 0.60	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	204.50	216.40	+ 0.80	...
Fixed Int	221.30	234.10	+ 1.70	...
Cash	168.50	178.20		0.49
Overseas	263.80	279.10	+ 1.50	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	419.00	441.10	+ 1.90	...
UK Equity	710.80	748.30	+ 5.70	...
Property	293.30	297.20	+ 0.10	...
Money Market	267.00	281.10	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	321.40	338.40	+ 2.40	...
Japan	370.00	395.80	+13.90	...
North America	202.50	213.20	+ 1.00	...
International	407.80	429.10	+ 2.30	...
European	346.00	364.30	+ 0.90	...
Far East	166.50	174.30	+ 2.80	...
CANADA LIFE				
24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA				
01707 51122				
Equity Growth †	277.80	...	...	...
Managed	382.10	410.80	+ 1.30	...
Property	252.90	266.30	+ 0.20	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	263.60	277.50	+ 1.40	...
Equity	455.90	479.90	+ 3.60	...
Cash	226.60	240.00	+ 0.10	...
CLife Euro Mgd	450.60	474.30	+ 1.50	...
CLife Intl Fd	413.10	434.90	+ 3.80	...
Managed Fund	829.30	872.90	+ 2.50	...
Property Fund	545.50	574.20	+ 0.60	...
Equity Fund	1090.40	1147.80	+ 6.00	...
Gilt Edged Fd	670.80	706.10	+ 3.90	...
Deposit Fund	352.60	371.20	+ 0.30	...
Investment Fd	475.90	499.70	+ 4.20	...
International	657.30	670.80	+ 7.20	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Scutry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	167.50	176.40		...
Managed Fund	725.40	763.60	+ 4.10	...
Equity Fund	432.90	445.10	+ 7.20	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	339.40	354.90	+ 1.60	...
Ruby	205.60	216.50	+ 0.90	...
Emerald	155.20	163.40	+ 0.70	...
Equity	387.70	408.20	+ 3.60	...
Property	239.60	249.10	+ 0.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	222.60	234.30	+ 1.10	...
Indexed Secs	174.70	188.30	+ 1.20	...
Cash	164.81	210.43	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	286.40	301.50	+ 2.00	...
Far East	367.40	387.30	+ 1.30	...
International	262.50	277.40	+ 1.60	...
Special Sits	444.10	467.40	+ 0.40	...
Intl Income	343.60	361.70	+ 3.40	...
American Inc	247.00	260.00	+ 1.20	...
European	398.10	419.10	+ 2.00	...
Japanese	148.30	156.20	+ 3.00	...
SE Asia	409.90	431.50	+ 2.00	...
With Profits Ser	181.80	191.40	+ 0.30	...
-do- Spec	181.80	191.40	+ 0.30	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	389.60	417.50	+ 3.90	...
Equity	483.10	508.60	+ 9.30	...
Property	217.40	228.90	+ 0.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	284.90	299.90	+ 1.40	...
Index Linked	192.40	203.90	+ 1.70	...
Cash	272.71	287.10	+ 0.30	...
Nth American	362.20	381.30	+ 3.10	...
Far East Acc	390.20	368.80	+ 2.60	...
International Acc	361.40	380.50	+ 0.90	...
Special Sits	679.60	715.40	+ 4.10	...
European Flex	575.50	605.80	+ 0.80	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
Unitrust Fd †	111.5	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker †	356.99	...	...	...
-do- Cash	214.88	225.94	- 0.12	...
-do- Equity	634.78	668.19	+ 9.72	...
-do- Fxd Int	385.77	409.23	+ 2.23	...
-do- Managed	652.96	476.69	+ 5.16	...
-do- Property	317.25	333.95	+ 2.70	...
-do- Cash Inv	330.81	348.23	+ 0.32	...
-do- Equity Cap	116.51	617.38	+25.39	...
-do- Equity Inv	125.56	126.00	+41.07	...
-do- Fixed Cap	419.98	442.09	+ 2.59	...
-do- Fixed Inv	649.93	684.11	+ 4.47	...
-do- Index Cap	205.75	216.59	+ 1.58	...
-do- Index Inv	114.39	135.16	+ 2.61	...
-do- Mngd Cap	659.21	693.91	+ 9.37	...
-do- Mngd Inv	110.20	110.73	+15.21	...
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (51)	962.60	...	+ 0.74	...
Var Ann (51)	104.71	...	+ 0.24	...
Prime Managed	468.40	493.10	+ 2.90	...
Prime UK Equity	577.40	607.80	+ 6.20	...
Prime Int Equity	348.70	367.10	+ 4.20	...
Prime Property	248.70	261.80	+11.40	...
Prime Fxd Int	254.00	267.40	+ 0.50	...
Prime Index-Lnk	180.20	189.70	+ 1.20	...
Prime Cash	217.80	229.30	+ 0.10	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN				
01438 744646				
Managed Fund	1273.60	1340.60	- 5.70	...
Equity II	1847.20	1944.40	-14.60	...
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ. 01242 221341				
Life Funds				
Unit With Pits (51)	106.60	...	+ 0.20	...
Sterling (2)	104.20	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (3)	112.30	...	+ 0.30	...
Equity Mngd (3)	112.50	...	+ 0.40	...
Adventurous (3)	110.10	...	- 0.90	...
Bristol & West (2)	105.00	...	+ 0.10	...
Equity Mgd (2)	280.40	295.20	+ 2.00	...
Managed (2)	278.90	293.60	+ 0.90	...
Adventurous (2)	233.00	245.30	+ 1.30	...
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pits (5)	104.60	...	+ 0.10	...
Secure (2)	103.30	...	+ 0.30	...
Managed (2)	108.40	...	+ 0.80	...
Equity Mngd (2)	109.70	...	+ 0.50	...
Adventurous (2)	108.00	...	+ 0.60	...
Bristol & West (2)	103.90	...	+ 0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND				
60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	338.10	350.30	+ 5.50	2.61
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH				
01722 413366				
Managed	357.00	375.80	+ 0.80	...
Property	252.90	266.30	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	259.50	273.20	+ 1.50	...
Index Linked	178.60	188.10	+ 0.90	...
Cash	213.40	224.70	+ 0.10	...
FP Life Assurance en NM				
Fixed Interest	585.30	616.10	+ 2.50	...
Managed	790.30	831.80	+ 3.10	...
Deposit	363.50	382.60	+ 0.10	...
Property	487.30	512.90	+ 0.20	...
American	432.70	567.70	+ 3.00	...
Australian	633.50	666.80	+ 4.10	...
European	709.90	747.20	+ 1.40	...
Income Acc	860.60	906.80	+ 3.10	...
-do- Inst	471.40	496.20	+ 1.70	...
International	365.80	384.20	+ 0.50	...
Japan Smaller	487.10	512.70	+ 1.50	...
Singapore & Mal	435.10	457.80	+ 1.20	...
Smaller Cos	483.30	527.60	+ 2.00	...
Tokyo Fund	705.20	742.30	+ 4.70	...
UK Equity	662.50	689.80	+ 5.70	...
CCM Vanbrugh Mg	872.90	918.80	+ 2.10	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	343.80	361.50	- 0.50	...
GT Plan Worldw	582.40	613.60	+ 0.60	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS				
Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2BY. 01279 414252				
Portfolio Acc	786.30	789.30	+ 4.90	...
-do- Int A	780.20	830.90	+ 5.20	...
UK Equity	477.80	503.00	+ 5.70	...
Gilt Plus	220.40	232.10	+ 1.00	...
Managed	356.30	374.10	+ 2.40	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier St, York, YO1 1HR. 01904 629882				
Managed	243.70	256.40	+ 1.80	...
Inflation Prot'n	152.90	160.90	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	347.50	361.50	+ 5.50	...
Fixed Int	234.90	222.80	+ 0.60	...
Index Linked	175.00	184.10	+ 0.40	...
Cash Deposit	184.50	194.20	+ 0.20	...
Property	182.80	192.30	+ 0.30	...
International	190.10	204.50	+ 0.60	...
American	211.30	222.40	+ 1.50	...
Japan	241.80	254.40	+ 5.50	...
Japan Smlr Cos	247.60	260.50	+ 5.60	...
European	215.60	226.80	+ 0.10	...
Pacific Fund	112.20	118.00	+ 0.60	...
Conv Life	148.70	156.50	+ 0.30	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	555.70	585.00	+ 4.80	...
Managed Initial	555.70	574.60	+ 2.30	...
Equity Ord	867.60	913.30	+13.80	...
Equity Init	585.60	584.90	+ 8.50	...
Limited Gilt Ord	215.20

Shares fall on US data

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Vld %	P/E
556	444	Allied Domecq	537	- 6	6.6	16.9
835	560	Allsopp (HP)	570		2.7	15.2
1101	9p	Hiram Walker	96		6.5	21.9
729	615	Glenmorangie A	705		2.8	19.6
464	411	Grand Met	429	- 1	4.6	17.7
493	435	Guinness	470	- 2	3.9	15.4
377	315	Highland Dist	376		2.1	17.5
195	150	Macallan-Glen	157		1.2	37.7
803	666	Matthew Clark	760	- 5	3.6	
141	93	Mayfair W	140	+ 1	6.1	
2617½	1700½	SA Breweries	1981½		2.2	

BANKS

3616½	2743½	ABN AMRO	3431½	- 28½	3.9	12.1
663	539	Abbey Nat	585	- 5½	4.6	11.2
468	426	Allied Irish	446		6.0	10.1
536	385	Bank NI 'Z'	435	- 4	5.0	7.6
4474½	3843½	Bank America	4361½			
316	231½	Bank Scotland	241	- 5	3.6	10.2
819	682	Barclays	799	+ 6	4.1	10.4
388	425	BK of Ireland	466		4.2	
482	379	Coles Allen	476	+ 8	9.2	
5660½	4031½	Citicorp	5472½			
382	318	Close Bros	359		3.2	15.9
2153½	2132	Commercial	2133½	- 65½	3.6	
1360	1146½	De Zoete Bev Y	1146½		0.6	
3412½	2980	Deutsche Bk	3009½	+ 12½	2.5	
6033½	5934½	Espirito Santo	7669½		4.1	10.2
1507	1265½	Hk Bank Y	1503½	- 7½	0.4	
3473	3341	Goward Kiet	3454	- 2	8.1	11.2
2927	1196	Hambros	2516		2.0	
1126	891	HSBC	1035	- 10	3.9	11.1
1088	930	HSBC Hr.	1014	- 14	3.9	10.8
471	365	Irish Perm	419		3.1	11.2
177	143	King Shaxson	167	- 2	8.7	13.8
455	415	Leopold J	428		5.9	
3471½	2941½	Lloyds TSB	3330	- 2	3.8	14.5
648	571	Nat Aust Bk	594	- 6	7.4	7.5
711	665½	Nat West	694	- 9	5.1	7.7
66	51	Rea Brothers	54		4.3	35.9
596	465	Rbf Bk Scotl	500	+ 4	4.2	11.9
1380	1195	Schroders	1345	- 8	1.5	18.7
1378	695	Schroders N/V	1345	- 3	1.9	14.6
133	99½	Singer & Fried	113		4.4	9.4
672	547	Standd Chart	640	- 4	2.1	14.0
105	85½	Ulster	92	+ 1	2.1	
5174½	4138½	Wells Fargo	5154½		0.9	
3299½	2664	Westpac	2921	+ 31½	4.1	
3697	2968	Westpac	3660		4.5	

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

2549	36	Allgate Gp Hld	38	- 2		83
2465	2653	Ascot Hldgs	2853	- 2		
4639	3702	Bass	4552	- 22½	3.5	17.9
31	26	Bk Ire Brw Shr	31		5.8	10.7
177	161	Blue Bird Brw	174		4.2	
1265½	92	City Centre Rest	1125		2.3	23.0
621	463	Compass Gp	587	- 1	1.7	28.0
265	198	Dtandac P. & Tr	258		3.3	23.6
535	415	Fuller Sm A	535			
636	551	Greenalls Grp	577	+ 2	3.5	15.7
671	567½	Greene King'A'	649	+ 1	3.0	
2855	224	Grosvenor Inns	244	- 13	2.8	25.3
2552	204	Groupe Chez Ger	2252		1.4	22.8
367	299	Hardy Hanson	303		4.3	11.2
3475	3096	Hall J	3100		2.3	16.8
72	45	Ivy Business	70			
356	313	Marshall-d	348		2.1	16.8
3520	307	Morton Pmp	314	- 5	3.8	
673	536	Mytcroft	646		2.5	18.4
147	118	My Kinda Town	135		2.6	14.3
6½	4½	Paramount	6½	+ ½	4.2	10.4
163	123	Pelican Gp	157	- 1	1.6	
426	217	PizzaExpress	388	+ 11	0.7	40.2
438	345	Rancliffe (H)	373	- 2	3.2	16.0
1265	1384	Regent Inns	229	- 2	0.9	35.9
2700	691	Scot & Newc	670	- 3	3.7	
268	205	Tom Cobleigh	250		7.4	31.1
313	268	Tsb Group	279	- 1	4.5	14.4
1056	640	Wetherspoon JD	980	- 3	1.1	34.6
759	672	Whitbread'A'	737		3.7	15.8
683	578	Whitmbagh D	639		3.1	14.6
407	297	Yates Bros.	356		1.3	
650	425	Young & J	633		3.0	25.0

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

33	17½	AAF Ints	24	+ 1		
190	135	Abbey	190		3.5	12.3
295	212½	Aberdn.	280		3.2	17.0
141	98	Ashtead	98	+ 1	3.1	18.2
448	330	Aandrew Sykes	405	+ 3	1.2	21.7
200	160	Ashtead	178	+ 4	1.8	15.4
38	26	Avenside	37		3.4	
31	24	Bailey (Benj) Con	30		4.6	12.6
56	38	Barcomt	50		1.8	
261	219	Barratt Devs	245	- 5	3.9	11.2
213	166	Beazer Homes	179		4.1	14.5
344	249	Bellway	318	- 1	3.1	15.6
21	17	Bellmarsh	19			
838	483	Berkeley Gp	598		1.8	
173	153	Bett Brost	164		5.0	5.7
250	175	Bmal (Henry)	232		4.0	10.0
133	91	Brandon Hirst	132		2.1	19.4
30	19	Britannia Grp	28		7.1	23.3
54	31	Br Bldg & Eng	38	+ 2		
125	104	Bryant	126		5.0	16.3
108	88	CALA	105		3.9	11.5
20	10	Campbell & Arm	10½			8.3
52	37	Carlisle T	52			
103	39	Costain'A'	39		5.0	
67	58	Countryside I	67		5.2	
45	34½	Crest Nicholson	71½	+ ½	3.5	18.8
88	72½	Cuscins	81		6.0	10.1
220	118	Eve Group	140		8.0	7.5
76	61	Galliford	70	+ 1	4.3	16.1
863	733	Glascote (MJ)	863		2.2	16.0
61	48	Green (Eric)	48		7.0	
379	265	Hawtock Estate	379	+ 22	1.2	28.1
165	128	Hawden-Stuart	132		2.8	14.6
182	82	Higgs & Hill	84		3.2	
21	15	Howard Hldgs	19		5.3	17.3
1242	32	Jarvis	84	- 2		
188	128	Keller	168		3.2	14.3
323	293	Lang (JH)	317½		3.6	50.5
117	97	Lang G.rds Cy Pl	114		7.0	
27	9½	Linrd (VJ)	12½			
218	191	Maunders (J)	216		3.3	13.6
197	143	McAlpine (A)	149	- 1	5.9	
97	86	McCarthy & S	94	+ 1	3.4	12.7
126	91	Morgan Sindall	121	+ 2	3.1	15.7
172	122	Morrison Const	172	+ 2	3.1	
59	58½	Mowlem (J)	59		2.8	
242	173	Persimmon	230	- 2	5.2	18.1
116	85	Pochins	97		2.1	9.8
145	97	Prowting	137		3.5	29.1
20	17½	Rainc Ind	15			
152	128	Redrow	154		3.0	14.8
66	46	Secure Retirt	46		2.7	24.1
320	289	Sheriff Hldgs'A'	307	- 2	3.0	15.1
92	58	Shorrock	78		6.7	11.9
247	202	Speyhawk	368		3.0	22.6
159	129	Tay Homes	150		5.8	13.7
175	115	Taylor Woodrw	165	- 1	2.2	24.7
508	428	Tilbury Douglas	505	- 3	5.4	15.2
16½	10½	Try Group	15	+ ½		
72	54	Ward (Wm)	66		5.6	6.6
111	65	Warehouse I	100		5.6	
63	38	Ward Hldgs	43		4.4	6.4
223	178	Westbury	210	- 3	3.6	
8½	5½	Wiggins	8			
190	161	Wilson (C)	167		3.4	20.7
473	354	Wilson Bowden	443		2.8	21.0
160	129	Wimpey G	148	- 5	4.6	

BUILDING MATERIALS

15	5½	Aberdeen	6½			
344	264	Bdgs Ind	340	+ 2	3.6	16.3
124	97	Baggeridge Br	112		3.5	21.4
42	31	Bardon	37½		6.7	16.7
46	34	Blue Circle	34	+ 2½	4.2	28.0
378	302	Blue Circle	370	+ 2½	4.2	28.0
30	22	Bowater PLC	29		7.0	14.1
130	108	Br Dredging	125		5.6	14.5
673	473	CRH	649		1.8	17.5
48	32½	Caledonian Royl	41		6.1	
173	148	Cape	171		5.5	21.5
260	196	Caradon	247	- 2½	5.5	21.5
127	106	Caradon pf	113½		8.0	
38	19	Chartson Gp	31	- 1	4.0	
183	158	Dyson (J&J)	163		3.5	13.8
88	70	Dyson A	80		6.2	6.6
59	50	Ennstone	53		5.0	14.4
189½	121½	Fibre	155		4.1	
95	85	Gibbs & Dandy	86		5.3	8.9
209	154½	Graham Gp	159		4.5	11.9
426	379	Halstead (J)	383		3.9	10.5
187	129	Hepworth	156		6.5	15.0
86	36	Hewetson	63		5.1	13.9
251	215	Heywd Wms	236		7.2	12.8
99	65	Hoskins	73½		2.8	12.9
120	105	Jewson	105		6.3	9.3
88	65	Lilleshall	73		4.4	15.4
211	171	Marley	195	- 1	4.4	15.4
184	148	Marshalls	165		3.9	14.4
471	372	Mayne Int	379		2.6	12.4
169	114	Newman Tnks	155	- 2	7.1	14.4
106	83	Norcros	103	- 1		7.8
75	69	Pilkington	69		4.3	
223	175	Pilkington	187	- 1	3.8	17.6
1174	1026	Polypipe	1050	+ 16	2.7	13.6
1035	850	Redland	908	- 6	5.1	15.6
533	350	Redland	408		5.0	10.8
134	84	Ruskil	115		5.0	13.2
153	121	Rutland	137½	- 2½	5.5	13.2
148	102	Rugby Group	113		4.0	20.5
131	113	Russell (A)	126		3.8	10.7
256	196	SIG	215	- 2	3.8	10.7
4½	3½	SWP	3½			
196	156	Sharpe & Fisher	195		3.3	16.0
37	14	Spring Ram	16			
230	175	Steetmlne Hldgs	215	+ 1	4.5	17.9
176	102	Tarmac	114½	- 2½	6.0	18.7
147	97	Tilon	119		5.0	12.9
458	358	Travis Perkins	438	- 1	1.7	19.0
40	28	Tudor	35		3.6	15.9
58	31	Wasmouse-F. #	51			
489	433	Wimblehlyt	452	+ 2	2.6	15.6

CHEMICALS

198	156	Albright & Wil	184	- 3	4.4	15.6
136	125	Allied Colloids	130	- ½	2.8	22.7
210	157	Amber Ind	157		3.8	17.1
100	66	Amptorm Gp	97	+ 2	2.0	21.2
1693½	1443½	BASF 1Nl	1571½	- 9½	3.1	17.2
949	812	BOC	935	- 6	3.9	14.7
310	265	BTP	279	- 1	3.6	14.7
2536½	1716½	Bayer DM50	2231½		2.5	
112	70	Brent Chems	100	- 1	3.5	
234	199	Br Vita	216	+ 1	4.6	17.5
156	132	Canning (W)	149		3.9	16.8
460	401	Courtaulds	426		5.4	21.2
351	303	Croda	306	+ 3	3.9	14.8
2080	2004	Dorlocote	2080		3.0	15.5
2650	2200	Ellis & Everard	2500	+ 5	3.0	14.2
34	27	Euro Colrnart	27		3.7	
137	104	Gibbon	117	- 3	5.1	
93	71	Hickson	73		4.5	21.8
2381½	1750	Hoechst	2148½	- 6½	2.5	
164	102	Holliday Chem	138	- 1	4.7	19.6
958	759	ICI	957	+ 5	4.9	12.4
146	118	Imperial	137		4.4	
111	91	Ingen	107		4.4	12.0
782	625	Laporte	767	+ 4	4.1	12.0
525	385	Manders	271	+ 2	5.3	12.4
100	76	Marstem	96		3.1	15.2
37	26	Metrotect	29		1.6	23.1
432	348	Persan	415		3.4	13.7
252	221	Scapa	243		3.4	
36	26	Tubelite Speak	32		6.7	16.9
1154½	923½	Tokeita Chem	1128	- 1½	0.7	16.9
1133	968	Wilkinshire S	1015		3.0	15.6
296	233	Yorks Chem	264		4.5	14.7
399	302	Yorks Calico	358		2.6	17.7

DISTRIBUTORS

121	97	ABI Lcast	99		5.5	11.8
465	365	Adam & Harvey	365	+ 2	6.4	9.0
28	14	Alexanders	22		2.2	
115	98	Applegreen	102		2.5	11.7
11	7	Arrow Ell Eng	7		3.1	17.1
630	505	BSS Group	615		3.1	14.2
98	68	Bandl	95		5.6	16.8
24	16	Bearing Power	23		3.1	14.2
43	23	Bodgd A	43			

ELECTRICITY

737	514	East Midlands	557	- 5	7.1	8.7
873	618	London Elect	818	- 2	7.8	7.9
448	325	Midlands Elec	419		5.5	10.5
498	389½	Nthmbrid Elctrl	479½	- 2½	7.5	8.5
615	476	Nthmbrid Power	532	- 2	6.9	7.9
481	368	Nat Power PP	396	- 5	6.9	8.0
724	526	Northern Elect	556	- 5	8.9	6.6
1004	589	Nthn Ireland	979		4.5	10.2
625	452	PowerGen	479	+ 2	3.2	11.2
475	321	PowerGen (P/P)	339	+ 5	5.5	8.2
372	291½	Hydro-Elect	291½	- 4½	7.8	7.8
403	300	Scottish Power	305	+ 3	6.7	8.7
910	665	Southern Elec	729	- 4	6.8	8.5
910	668	Yorkshire Elec	729	- 4	6.8	8.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

562	545	Acal	545	..	1.9	18.1
311	185	Acorn Comp	251			
1064	163½	Admiral	208	+ 10	0.8	34.5
2184½	142½	Amstrad	206	+ 3½	1.7	
52	33	Arlen	48		1.8	12.4
1645	110	Aztec	148	+ 1½	1.3	20.2
782	469	Action	721	+ 1	0.7	
3680	276	BICC	310	- 3	5.8	
323	195	Beales Hunter	232		6.4	20.5
556	445	Black	503		3.4	13.7
464	383	Bowthorpe	434		2.7	18.9
249½	147½	Bridgn (AF) 'A'	164½	+ ½	3.6	
133	106	Cal. Microso	109	+ 2	7.4	16.1
39	24	Channel Hldgs	34		4.9	14.7
30½	23½	Chloride	30½		1.9	17.3
82	66	Clayhithe	78	+ 2	5.7	8.4
50	38	Corp Elect	39½	- ½		
562	579	Cradley'A'	562		16	25.4
849	625	Dale Ele Spd	633		10.5	21.5
484	345	Delta	347	- 6	5.8	17.3
450	380	Diorama	380		3.2	38.9
76	64	Dowding Mills	67		5.2	15.8
3320	1541	Dwnstrm	3450		0.5	37.0
3431½	2618½	Dncanbck 'B'	3351½	- 9½	3.7	9.1
38½	30½	Emess	34½		0.7	21.7
1816½	1126	Ericsson 'B'	1403½	+ 6½	1.2	26.0
92	66	Escocigy	90	+ 3	3.4	15.7
645	515	Eurotherm	544		3.5	15.1
699	533	Fairey Group	645	- 2	1.5	23.5
497	298	Filtronic Dom	295	- 10	0.3	46.9
273½	155	Forward Gp'¶	254		1.0	22.6
100	71	Forward Tech	74		4.6	10.9
361	341	GEC	357½	- 4	6.8	20.8
137	114	Greenby	132		6.8	20.8
140	93½	Ind Control	128		3.6	27.1
39½	25	Inlotch	34		2.9	43.1
131	97	Kode	129		1.9	12.1
57	34	LPA Ind	47		4.2	11.4
290	260	MTL Instrs	288		2.1	17.5
92	42	Magnum Power	55	- 6		
398	348	Marner-Sw	395		2.3	18.1
28	18	Microvitec	23		1.7	20.1
472	340	Mitel	435			
69	36	Neoltronics	44	- 1	2.4	
543	405	Oxford Inst	488		1.7	17.5
180	122	Pace Micro Tech	139		3.0	
131	97	Peak	124½	+ ½	3.4	18.7
2765½	2037½	Philips Lmp rts	2639½	+ 34½	2.9	14.4
229	141	Plessey	208		3.0	12.7
204	146	Pressac	195	- 1	2.3	20.3
48	33	Prestwich	46			25.2
420	259½	Psion	440	- 8	0.5	36.7
348	260	Racal Elect	308	- 1	2.4	19.8
103	78	Radamec	85		3.2	18.5
391	229	Rainford	230	- 3	1.1	12.2
560	380	Renishaw	513	- 2	1.7	20.6
6	1½	Redome	3			
310	255	Redond	295	- 5	2.5	15.0
427	317	Servomex	398	- 5	2.4	20.0
92	62	Silvermines	84		4.1	17.1
43	27	Soundtracs'D'	37½	+ ½	3.7	9.9
3990½	3003½	TDK	3729½	+ 37½	0.9	
15	6	TDS Circuits'D'	13			
114	94	TGI	112	- 1	3.5	12.4
166	136	TLGI	156	- 1	3.4	15.5
79	48	Tadpole Tech	61	+ 3		
134	77	Telemedia	79		2.3	17.2
478	339	Telspec	443		3.4	21.8
245	210	Thorpe Pw	210	- 1	2.4	12.8
35	20	Total Systems	34		3.8	
380	302	Tunstall	378	+ 1	3.8	20.8
740	470	Unitech	735		1.4	23.9
16½	9½	Vinity	12½	- ½	3.5	13.8
273	218	Vero	218	- 1	2.6	22.6
455	383	Volex	436		5.7	13.1
36	17½	Wadsworthe	36			
172	125	Wilcomatic	156		4.1	17.8

ENGINEERING

363	277	AIM	344	- 1	1.6	
96½	62	APV	62		5.4	17.8
97	70	ASW	89		4.5	
457	396	Alumasc	433		3.3	19.1
175	107	Avesl	107		2.6	7.2
201	170	Ash & Lacy	178	- 2	3.4	14.4
1698	1188	Aztec Engg	1388		3.7	19.5
149	115	Ayrshire Metal	115		6.9	6.8
351	284	BBA	300	- 1	3.3	12.2
163	133	BMI	143			
145	88	Babcock	135		3.3	20.1
84	6	Bailey (CH)	8½			
163	133	Bayces (Charles)	134		3.3	20.1
38	24	Beaufort	35			
1447	1138	Bemrose	1366	- 2	7.0	
98	91½	Br Aerospace	96		2.1	
1377	1172½	Bodycote	1251	- 10	2.9	
274	210½	Bd Rscues	227	+ 5	5.4	
34	28	Wt Foods	30		5.8	
92	85	Yorkshire Food	85		7.5	5.7

HEALTHCARE

1077	818	Amersham	1040	- 1	2.2	19.5
83	42	Anagen	45			
165	139	Assoc Matsg	142	+ 1	3.0	
440	315	Bespak	383		3.2	27.2
5404½	3954½	Biocompos Int	4781½			
118	74	Cons UK1	112	+ 1	0.9	19.4
131	102	Celsus	120	+ 1	0.9	
369	240	Community H	369		3.7	15.4
31	24½	CrossCare	30		3.7	
36	17	Evesmmed	29			
115	68	Ferraccy Group	115		2.9	15.4
176	111	Gamblebrought	166	- 2	3.8	14.1
11½	6½	Grassacres'C'	11½			16.8
948	773	Huntligh Tec'C'	933		1.1	16.4
78	57	Intercare Gpt	64		0.8	15.3
310	253	Isopon	288		3.5	13.3
1209	880	Lab Sciences	1165		1.2	13.3
156	109	Lon Indt	154		1.6	26.8
1014	778	Medeo-BNA	1000		3.9	17.3
14	10	Premier Health	11			
113	84	Prime Health	107		2.0	11.5
270	194	Schelly	255		3.4	19.1
513	385	Seton Health	488	+ 1	2.0	23.0
174	106	Shield Diag	160	- 5		
216½	176	Sheilds & Boyle	216½	- 2	5.4	21.1
27	16	Spectrscpy	17		2.3	20.1
180	130	Talarx	138	- 1	3.4	10.0
3½	2	Tamarist	3½		2.8	
289	232½	UniChem	262	- 5	3.8	13.6
537	380	West Hthcare	516	- 5	2.2	14.6

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

429	355	AB Food	403½	+ 8½	2.7	14.4
284	247	Acatos & Hutch	264	+ 3	4.3	21.6
53	43½	Allied Finlay	49½	+ ½	11.2	11.8
305	275	Booth (S C)	305	- 5	4.3	11.5
345	315	Bus (ARS)	334	- 1	3.1	21.8
32	21	Bovenis Grp	28		2.1	21.9
408	358	Booker	373		3.3	17.1
169	150	Br Sugar	169		3.6	19.4
722	622	Cadbury Ind	703	+ 5	2.7	20.9
767	665	Cadbury-Schw	726	- 6	4.0	18.3
324	262	Chrstny Ind	316	+ 1	3.4	16.7
562	456	Ti	548	- 4	2.2	20.8
1189	952	Tinsley (FMG)	1177		6.4	
131	78	Tunnicliff	131		2.1	26.3
180	140	Tpkins Lbnd	161	- 1	4.4	9.7
161	137	Unicorn Ind	157		4.9	9.6
82½	74	Utd Inds	74		3.6	10.9
1850	1545	Dom & Gen	1650		2.1	17.9
2514	1654	FKI	2205½	+ 10½	2.4	18.2
159	93	Fenchurch Sort	98	+ 3	3.0	10.7
129	105	Finsbury Under	126½		3.2	38.9
686	612	Gen Accident	634	- 12	6.1	6.6
243	218	GRE	243	- 5	4.6	6.2
1116	992	HSBC Lloyds	1116		0.5	37.0
115	74	Health C'El	97	- ½	7.7	
3084	2374	Hibernian IF	3009½	+ ½	3.9	
133	103	Hiscox Select	133		2.3	15.6
507	373	Independental	467		3.1	10.8
271	208	Irish Life	250		3.8	21.6
119	97	JB Group	114		8.2	24.5
119	97	Kln Capital	115		4.4	
748	681	Legal & Gen	672	+ 6	4.8	18.9
24500	17085	Liberty Life	23108½	+ 18½	0.8	6.2
194	163	Lloyd Thomp	182		6.4	10.7
549	444	Lloyds Abbey	526	+ 3	5.1	13.3
433	368	Londn & Man	372	+ 1	6.3	
134	100	London Ins Mkt	130		3.0	35.1
1130	1000	Marsh & McLn	1082½		3.3	
6599½	5487½	Marsh McLn	6182½		3.3	
115	98	Mealhouse	114		3.5	33.5
206	146	Nelson Hand	201	- 2	4.3	13.8
107	82	New London Cap	98		4.9	38.0
100	84	Nthmbrn	89		4.9	
150	106	Orbit	136		4.9	
97	81½	Penmaen Trust	93		4.7	22.2
149	121	Premium Under	144			
464	400	Prudential	412	+ 2	4.8	10.4
1134	1015	RMC	1105	+ 1	3.4	9.3
540	430	Refuge	473	+ 5	3.5	30.0
458	338	Royal	397	- 3	6.4	6.6
152	114	Sedgwick	135	- 2	6.7	10.2
48	33	Sedl Burtill	42		13.4	6.0
348	340	Sun Life & P	348	- 7	8.4	7.0
243	229	Sun Life & P	222			
115	92	Syndicate Cap	115	+ 1	3.0	33.1
846	705	Utd Friendly	786	+ 21	4.1	7.0
159	141	Wills, Cannon	152	+ 1	9.4	13.7

RACING: UNPREDICTABLE WEATHER CREATES CIRCUMSTANCES FOR SURPRISE AT SANDOWN

ED BYRNE



Halling attempts to follow up last year's success over Singspiel in the group one Coral-Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park today. Reid replaces Swinburn in the saddle

Beauchamp King to eclipse favourites

BY RICHARD EVANS,
RACING CORRESPONDENT

PHIL BULL, the founder of *Timeform* and arguably the most successful punter this century, once opined that the state of the ground was the most critical element in assessing a race. Anyone considering a bet in the 99th running of the Coral-Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park this afternoon should recall the wisdom of the Halifax guru, who said the going is "a variable that greatly affects performance and discounts merit not merely to the extent of a few pounds, but sometimes overrides all other considerations."

The outcome of today's fascinating race, which pits the classic generation against their elders for the first time this season, could well hinge on the vagaries of the British weather as much as the individual qualities of the seven runners.

After a week which has seen heavy showers pepper most of the country but miss the Esher track, upwards of a quarter of an inch of rain fell during racing yesterday. The burst prompted Sandown officials to change the going to good and the slower times in the last four races confirmed their judgment. Jockeys reported the ground to be loose on top and nearer to good to soft.

For the fast ground loving Pentire, Valanour and Bijou D'Inde, the downpour could not have come at a worse time. If the forecast of further rain fails to materialise, the going at this fast-draining track might be just sound enough for the three to run to their best. But it is a big if.

Pentire, who would have been the leading middle-distance horse of 1995 but for the remarkable Lammtarra, has not raced since finishing a creditable fourth to the mighty Cigar on the dirt in the Dubai World Cup. Geoff Wragg, his trainer, has made no secret of his delight at the recent homework of his colt and, with a likely strong pace, the race should be run to suit. However, he is unproven on easy ground and is unlikely to be so effective on it.

Valanour is best judged on his defeat of Singspiel to win the Grand Prix de Paris last year, and his two victories this term, including a defeat of Luso and Swain in the Prix Ganay. If the ground had remained genuinely fast he would have been my choice to become the first French-trained winner since Javelot in 1960. However, Alain de Royer Dupré, the trainer of Valanour, is on record as saying that even slightly sticky ground would prevent his horse giving of his best.

The front-running and admirably game Bijou D'Inde appears to have every chance of staying 1¼ miles — he is a half-brother to the staying hurdler Hebridean — but he definitely prefers to hear his feet rattle.

Ignore Halling's two defeats in the Breeders' Cup Classic and the Dubai World Cup — and the unsuitable dirt surface is a perfectly legitimate excuse — and Godolphin's five-year-old is undefeated since the summer of 1994, during which time he has won three group ones, including this race last year. He showed his wellbeing when winning the Prix d'Ispahan at Longchamp in May and with his homework having pleased connections, he has a sound chance of becoming only the fifth horse to win this race in successive years.

Definite Article, the runner-up in last year's Irish Derby, has confirmed this year that he is best over 1¼ miles. Representing the formidable partnership of Dermot Weld and Michael Kinane, he will also appreciate the likely conditions underfoot.

However, I am going for an upset in the shape of **Beauchamp King**, overpriced at 33-1 with Ladbrokes and the sponsor. He ran on strongly behind Bijou D'Inde at Royal Ascot and looks sure to appreciate his first attempt at this longer trip. The winner of the Craven Stakes and third in the Irish 2,000 Guineas, he is proven on all types of ground, including soft.

Loch Patrick appeals on Royal Ascot form

SANDOWN PARK
CHANNEL 4

2.50: Beauchamp Jazz, fourth in this race last year, is a tentative choice in a wide open affair. The handicapper has dropped John Dunlop's runner 3lb since finishing a respectable seventh in the Hunt Cup at Royal Ascot, where he didn't have the best of the draw, and he can go close with Michael Kinane booked. Brandon Magic ran his best race of the season in the Britannia Handicap and any rain would increase his chances, while the front-running Golden Pond is still reasonably treated after two wins.

3.25: A low draw is normally favoured with the stalls on the stands' side but, to confuse matters, most of the early pace is amongst horses drawn high, notably Eveningperformance and Welsh Mist. In the circumstances, the race may unfold to suit Michael Madgwick's **Loch Patrick**, who did particularly well from a bad draw to finish seventh to Pivotal in the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot (Eveningperformance, Mubhij, Wavian and Double Quick all behind). Best held up, the six-year-old has a fine turn of foot and a reproduction of his Ascot run should be good enough.

4.10: see above.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

4.45: Pine Needle, a good winner at Newcastle in May, found a combination of fast ground and inadequate trip against her last time at Newmarket but is bred to come into her own now she steps up to two miles. She is open to further improvement, along with the other three-year-old, Sharaf. Shadirwan will not be far away if he is in one of his going moods.

HAYDOCK PARK
CHANNEL 4

3.10: Phantom Gold has been running into form and would appreciate a strong pace but the Queen's tail-flashing filly may find her group two penalty hard to overcome. Shemozzle, placed in the Chester Oaks, Lupe Stakes and Ribblesdale Stakes, is the form choice and deserves a decent prize. Ellie Ardensky recorded a career best performance behind Salmon Ladder last time and should appreciate the extra quarter-mile. However, preference is for the lightly raced Min Alhawa, who started the revival in Dick Hern's fortunes last month when just failing to catch Sardonic. That was her first run of the season so she can improve further especially now that she tackles this distance for the first time.

3.40: The front running Royal Scimitar and Key To My Heart should ensure a sound pace which will benefit At Liberty. Richard Hannon's runner has improved with every run this term and did particularly well to finish third to Tykeyvor in the Bessborough Stakes at Royal Ascot, where he stayed on strongly in the straight. He is only 4lb higher than when winning at Lingfield last year on good ground.

RICHARD EVANS

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SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

2.15 Medaaly	4.10 **BEAUCHAMP KING** (nap)
2.50 Concer Un	4.10 Sharaf
3.25 Mubhij	4.45 Lord High Admiral
	5.15 Mr Browning

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.15 Medaaly. 4.10 **PENTIRE** (nap).

GOING: GOOD — DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.15 EBF PADDOCK MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,182: 7f) (7 runners)

101	(4)		BLUE RIVER (M Legg) T Mills 9-0	R Hills	–
102	(7)		DARK GREEN (Fahd Salman) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	–
103	(3)	4	KATANGA 45 (D Crowson) J Dunlop 9-0	J Weaver	–
104	(5)		LOVE HAS NO PRIDE (Miss L Regis) R Hannon 9-0	R Perham	–
105	(1)		MEDAALY (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 9-0	M J Kinane	–
106	(2)	3	SILVER WIDGET 35 (E & W V Robins) R Charlton 9-0	M Hills	–
107	(6)		GRETEL (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 8-9	J Reid	–

BETTING: 9-4 Medaaly, 11-4 Gretel, 9-2 Katania, 5-1 Silver Widget, 6-1 Dark Green, 12-1 others
1995: MAAWAL 9-0 W Carson (7-2) R Armstrong 11 ran

2.50 KINGSTON HANDICAP (£12,718: 1m) (13 runners) C4

201	(9)	233-320	GREEN GREEN DESERT 17 (G) (P Savill) Lady Herries 5-9-7	T Quinn	98
202	(5)	02-6000	BEAUCHAMP JAZZ 17 (D,F,S) (E Penser) J Dunlop 4-9-3	M J Kinane	96
203	(7)	50-3540	MOMENTS OF FORTUNE 17 (B,D,F,G) (A Ali) B Hanbury 4-9-2	M Rimmer	97
204	(2)	001-030	MOVING ARROW 17 (D,F,G) (G Waggott) Miss S Hall 5-9-1	J Weaver	99
205	(10)	0-00000	KAYVEE 17 (D,F,G) (J Richmond-Watson) G Harwood 7-8-13	R Hills	98
206	(3)	0/55-145	OPTIONS OPEN 7 (D,F,G) (J Ramsden) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-13	K Fallon	96
207	(11)	03134-0	OBERONS BOY 18 (G) (E Winfield) B Meehan 3-8-10	M Tebbutt	80
208	(4)	13-5500	BRANDON MAGIC 18 (G,S) (R Michaelson) I Balding 3-8-10	J Reid	96
209	(6)	0343-00	BLUE ZULU 40 (D,F) (T & J Vestey) J Fanshawe 4-8-9	W Woods	94
210	(1)	210-011	CONCER UN 7 (D,F,G,S) (Miss L Ward) S Williams 4-8-8	M Hills	95
211	(13)	310-060	COMANCHE COMPANION 3 (CD,F,S) (Allstars) T Naughton 6-8-7	N Varley (3)	89
212	(8)	02-410	MURHEB 28 (F) (A Al Shafar) R Armstrong 3-8-6	C Rutter	85
213	(12)	323211	GOLDEN POND 14 (D,F) (J Hargan) R J Houghton 3-7-13	D O'Shea	94

BETTING: 9-2 Concer Un, 5-1 Options Open, 6-1 Beauchamp Jazz, Brandon Magic, 7-1 Moving Arrow, 10-1 Golden Pond, Green Green Desert, Kayvee, 12-1 Murheb, 16-1 Blue Zulu, Comanche Companion, 20-1 others.
1995: LAP OF LUXURY 6-9-7 B Thomson (14-1) W Jarvis 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

MOVING ARROW neck 2nd of 9 to Bollin Frank in handicap at Haydock (1m, good to soft). OPTIONS OPEN 2¾l 5th of 13 to Akmahmen in handicap at Newcastle (7f, firm). BLUE ZULU 2¾l 3rd of 12 to Weaver Bird in handicap at Windsor (1m, good to firm) last year. CONCER UN best Greatest Nl in 8-runner handicap at Bath (1m, firm). MURHEB best Count Bassie in 13-runner maiden at Kempton (1m 2f, good to firm). GOLDEN POND best Desmond Beach 1¾l in 11-runner rating related stakes at Ascot (1m, good to firm).
Selection: OPTIONS OPEN

3.25 SANDOWN PARK SPRINT C4
(Listed race: £12,015: 5f 6yd) (13 runners)

301	(8)	321002	VENTURE CAPITALIST 7 (F,G) (W Sellers) D Nicholls 7-9-10	Alex Greaves	96
302	(4)	582160	BRAVE EDGE 15 (CD,F,G) (Horns Vale Racing) R Hannon 5-9-7	R Perham	94
303	(5)	221116	TO THE ROOF 15 (D,F,G) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 4-9-7	M Hills	91
304	(9)	140-032	CROFT POOL 19 (D,F,G) (Countrywide Classics) J Glover 5-9-3	S D Williams	98
305	(7)	00-3150	LOCH PATRICK 15 (CD,F,G,S) (Miss E Coller) M Madgwick 6-9-3	J Reid	93
306	(6)	00-0300	TAKADOU 8 (D,F,G,S) (Exors of F Tyldesley) Miss L Siddall 5-9-3	J Fortune	93
307	(1)	025000	WAVIAN 4 (D,F) (S Al Homeizi) R Hannon 4-9-3	M Tebbutt	85
308	(3)	025100	DOUBLE QUICK 6 (CD,F,G,S) (Middleham Partners) M Johnston 4-9-2	J Weaver	93
309	(13)	0213-60	EVENINGPERFORMANCE 15 (D,F,S) (Mrs D Blackburn) H Candy 5-9-2	C Rutter	89
310	(2)	515-410	KING OF THE EAST 17 (S) (K Shimona) M Stoute 3-8-12	M J Kinane	94
311	(12)	2121-00	MUBHIJ 15 (CD,F,G,S) (H Al Maktoum) B Hills 3-8-12	R Hills	96
312	(10)	00-8005	WELSH MIST 8 (B,D,F,G) (P Asquith) R Boss 5-8-12	K Fallon	90
313	(11)	60-2054	MARL 27 (D,G) (E Parker) R Akehurst 3-8-7	T Quinn	88

BETTING: 4-1 Eveningperformance, 5-1 Loch Patrick, 6-1 Mubhij, 8-1 Brave Edge, Croft Pool, 10-1 Double Quick, King Of The East, Venture Capitalist, 12-1 To The Roof, 14-1 Marl, 16-1 Welsh Mist, 25-1 others
1995: BUNTY BOO 6-8-12 M J Kinane (20-1) R Hannon 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

VENTURE CAPITALIST 1¾l promoted 2nd of 10 to Marmal in listed race at Newcastle (6f, firm). Earlier beat Bramston Abby head in group III Duke of York Stakes (6f, good to firm). BRAVE EDGE beat DOUBLE QUICK (4lb better off) 1¼l in 6-runner listed race at Kempton (5f, good to firm). TO THE ROOF beat Lucky Parkes short-head in 12-runner listed handicap at Epsom (5f, good to firm) with MARL (9lb better off) 3l and head 4th. DOUBLE QUICK (16lb better off) 1l 5th, BRAVE EDGE (16lb better off) short-head 5th and WAVIAN (10lb better off) 2¾l 11th. DOUBLE QUICK best Speed On 11 in 7-runner conditions race at Sandown over course and distance (firm).
EVENINGPERFORMANCE 2½l and neck 3rd of 12 to Never Golf Rose in the group I Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp (5f, soft) last year. KING OF THE EAST BEAT Red Nymph 2½l in 6-runner conditions race at Leicester (6f, good to soft)
Selection: DOUBLE QUICK (nap)

4.10 CORAL-ECLIPSE STAKES C4
(Group I: £147,600: 1m 2f 7yd) (7 runners)

401	(7)	1244-11	DEFINITE ARTICLE 41 (V,D,G) (Moyglare Stud Farms) D Weld 4-9-7	M J Kinane	95
402	(6)	1265-01	ELA-ARISTOKRATI 28 (D,F,G) (A Michael) L Cumani 4-9-7	K Fallon	96
403	(1)	110-191	HALLING 40 (CD,F,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 5-9-7	J Reid	98
404	(5)	1211-44	PENTIRE 101 (CD,F,G) (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 4-9-7	M Hills	97
405	(4)	1616-11	VALANOUR 69 (D,F,G) (Aga Khan) A de Royer Dupre (Fr) 4-9-7	G Mosse	99
406	(3)	11-1534	BEAUCHAMP KING 18 (F,G,S) (E Penser) J Dunlop 3-8-10	T Quinn	91
407	(2)	115-341	BIJOU D'INDE 18 (F,G) (J Manifold) M Johnston 3-8-10	J Weaver	95

BETTING: 7-4 Pentire, 5-2 Halling, 9-2 Definite Article, 5-1 Valanour, 8-1 Bijou D'Inde, 14-1 Ela-Aristokrati, 25-1 Beauchamp King.
1995: HALLING 4-9-7 W R Swinburn (7-1) S bin Suroor 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

DEFINITE ARTICLE best Timarida 1l in 8-runner group two Tattersalls Gold Cup at The Curragh (1m 2f, yielding). ELA-ARISTOKRATI beat Tertium ½l in 16-runner handicap at Epsom (1m 2f, good). HALLING beat Gunboat Diplomacy 1½l in 4-runner group I Prix d'Ispahan at Longchamp (1m 1f, heavy). PENTIRE beat Freedom Cry short-head in 8-runner group I Guinness Champion Stakes at Leopardstown (1m 2f, good to firm) with DEFINITE ARTICLE 2½l 4th and VALANOUR 12l 6th. BEAUCHAMP KING 3¾l 3rd of 10 to Spinning World in group I First National Building Society Irish 2,000 Guineas at The Curragh (1m, yielding) with BIJOU D'INDE 3l 4th. BIJOU D'INDE best Ashkalani head in 9-runner group I St James's Palace Stakes at Ascot (1m, good to firm) with BEAUCHAMP KING 2¼l 4th.
Selection: HALLING

4.45 COMMONWEALTH HANDICAP C4
(£7,165: 2m 78yd) (14 runners)

501	(4)	651043-	TOP CEES 98J (F,G) (R Sangster) Mrs J Ramsden 6-10-0	K Fallon	91
502	(5)	043016-	DANJING 100J (F,G) (Knight Hawks) M Pipe 4-9-13	D Bridgwater	90
503	(12)	00-1000	SHADIRWAN 18 (D,F,G,S) (C Ball) R Akehurst 5-9-10	T Quinn	97
504	(7)	4-60333	DEANO'S BEENO 12 (F) (P Deal) M Johnston 4-9-5	J Weaver	97
505	(6)	006022	PEARL VENTURE 12 (F) (F Chau) S Woods 4-9-5	W Woods	96
506	(8)	4-00304	PARADISE NAVY 14 (B,G) (Elite Racing) C Egerton 7-8-9	A Daly (5)	92
507	(2)	62033-0	SUPREME STAR 30 (C,F,G) (J Wheeler) P Hedger 5-8-9	M Varley (3)	93
508	(3)	052-213	SHARAF 43 (B,BF,F) (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 3-8-8	R Hills	98
509	(13)	026-502	BOWCLIFFE COURT 35 (BF,G) (J Hanson) B Hills 4-8-8	J Reid	92
510	(14)	515-315	PINE NEEDLE 15 (BF,G,S) (Lord Halifax) D Morley 3-8-7	M Hills	93
511	(9)	0/0-0315	WORLD EXPRESS 21 (C,S) (M Dragisic) B Millman 8-8-0	C Rutter	96
512	(1)	220-001	SOOJAMA 28 (B,D,F,G) (M Rogers) R Fisher 6-7-11	–	89
513	(11)	306006	CANARY FALCON 14 (G) (L Pipe) N Callingridge 5-7-10	C Adamson (5)	96
514	(10)	535340-	DURSHAN 141J (F,G) (Skidmore Turnbull) J Jenkins 7-7-10	D O'Shea	95

Long handicap: Canary Falcon 7-8, Durshan 7-3.
BETTING: 9-2 Sharaf, 5-1 Pine Needle, 6-1 Shadirwan, 8-1 Deano's Beeno, Paradise Navy, Top Cees, 10-1 Bowcliffe Court, Soojama, World Express, 12-1 others.
1995: SHINING HIGH 3-8-5 K Darley (7-1) J Dunlop 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

TOP CEES 1l 3rd of 21 to Old Red in 21-runner handicap at Newmarket (2m 2f, good to firm) last year with SHADIRWAN (2lb worse off) 1¾l 15th. PEARL VENTURE neck 2nd of 5 to Tonys Gift in handicap at Warwick (1m 7f, firm) with DEANO'S BEANO (3lb better off) 2¼l 3rd, PARADISE NAVY 7¼l 4th of 12 to Bollivar in handicap at Ascot (2m, good to firm). SHARAF 2¼l 3rd of 7 to Bellator in handicap at Haydock (1m 6f, good to soft). PINE NEEDLE beat Fastog neck in 8-runner handicap at Newcastle (1m 4f, good). WORLD EXPRESS beat Rocky Forum head in 8-runner handicap here (1m 6f, good to soft) SOOJAMA best Make A Stand 4l in 21-runner ladies handicap at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm).
Selection: PINE NEEDLE

5.15 VICTORIA AMATEUR TURF CLUB HANDICAP
(£5,602: 5f 6yd) (11 runners)

601	(1)	15124/0	FEMME SAVANTE 35 (F) (N Ahamed) R Hannon 4-10-0	R Perham	–
602	(10)	401226	PORTEND 14 (B,D,BF,G,S) (D Bowring) S Bowring 4-9-9	S D Williams	98
603	(9)	0-00001	FOR THE PRESENT 15 (F,G) (Mrs J Hazell) T Barron 6-9-2	J Fortune	95
604	(6)	0-00013	LORD HIGH ADMIRAL 8 (CD,F,G,S) (Elite Racing) M Heaton-Ellis 8-9-1	J Reid	91
605	(2)	00-4000	MASTER OF PASSION 15 (D,F,G,S) (M Kiely) J Eustace 7-9-1	M Tebbutt	97
606	(3)	265-000	FORENTIA 22 (V,CD,F) (Mrs N Kairis) J Fanshawe 3-8-13	R Hills	88
607	(7)	4-11065	CHEWIT 19 (BF,G) (Ballard Ltd) A Moore 4-8-13	Candy Morris	96
608	(5)	5-13511	CANOVAS HEART 22 (D,G,S) (M Osborne) B Jones 7-8-9	N Day	88
609	(4)	241106	JUCEA 4 (D,F,G) (A Campbell) J Spearing 7-8-6	K Fallon	97
610	(8)	0-80014	BEAU VENTURE 14 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs A Stacey) B Palling 8-8-5	C Rutter	89
611	(11)	3-0500	MAGIC MAIL 9 (G Cook) J Eustace 3-7-10	N Varley (3)	93

BETTING: 7-2 Lord High Admiral, 4-1 For The Present, 8-1 Femme Savante, 7-1 Canovas Heart, 8-1 Portend, Beau Venture, 10-1 Jucea, 12-1 others.
1995: THAT MAN AGAIN 3-9-0 Pat Eddery (9-2) G Lewis 14 ran

5.45 SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION HANDICAP
(£3,870: 1m 3f 91yd) (10 runners)

1	(2)	422043/	BRANDON COURT 672 (CD,G,S) (R Michaelson) I Balding 5-10-0	M Hills	–
2	(1)	210100-	MR BROWNING 259 (B,F) (Mrs M O'Shea) R Akehurst 5-9-4	T Quinn	87
3	(10)	0220	GET AWAY WITH IT 19 (V) (M Al Maktoum) M Stoute 3-9-0	J Reid	86
4	(9)	012241	EAGLE CANYON 17 (F,G) (C Lenz) B Hanbury 3-8-13	M Rimmer	98
5	(4)	013303	BAYRAK 5 (D,G,S) (A Reid) M Ryan 6-8-13	N Day	96
6	(7)	132-000	EDAN HEIGHTS 10 (S) (T Mountain) S Dow 4-8-13	A Daly (5)	86
7	(3)	622-046	APACHE LEN 24 (R Talamo) R Hannon 3-8-10	R Perham	91
8	(5)	60-104	SHU GAA 40 (BF,G) (A Al Jalfeli) W Haggas 3-8-8	K Fallon	94
9	(8)	25-004	THE BOOZING BREE 32 (Mrs A Green) M Jarvis 3-8-0	R Hills	95
10	(6)	500-440	JUNIOR BEN 12 (BF) (B Allen) P Howling 4-7-12	C Rutter	89

BETTING: 7-2 Eagle Canyon, 4-1 Mr Browning, 5-1 Get Away With It, 7-1 Shu Gaa, 8-1 Bayrak, Brandon Court, 10-1 Apache Len, 12-1 others.
1995: BOOKCASE 8-9-0 A Procter (6-1) D Elsworth 10 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
B Palling	3	10	30.0	M J Kinane	9	55	16.4
Mrs J Ramsden	3	12	25.0	J Weaver	7	48	14.6
M Jarvis	5	23	21.7	T Quinn	23	178	12.9
W Haggas	4	19	21.1	Only qualifiers			
J Dunlop	19	98	19.4				

HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

2.00 Eponine	3.40 Source Of Light
2.35 Alpine Hideaway	4.15 Samraan
3.10 Min Alhawa	4.50 Danegold

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.10 **SHEMOZZLE**.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 Alpine Hideaway.

GOING: GOOD — DRAW: 6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

2.00 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND JULY MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O fillies: £3,602: 6f) (6 runners)

1	(2)		COLOMBIA (Sultan Al Kabeer) M Stoute 8-11	D Harrison	–
2	(1)	434422	DARSHILL PRINCESS 10 (BF) (J Graham) R Hollinshead 8-11	F Lynch (3)	–
3	(5)		EPONINE (R Grey) M Channon 8-11	R Hughes	–
4	(6)		EXPECTATION (I S Racing) P Webber 8-11	B Thomson	–
5	(4)		GHARYUR (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 8-11	W Carson	–
6	(3)	0	MY DEAR WATSON 19 (J Marsden) J Berry 8-11	J Carroll	–

BETTING: 2-1 Colombia, 9-4 Eponine, 11-4 Gharyur, 7-1 Expectation, 8-1 Darshill Princess, 50-1 My Dear Watson.
1995: TAMINA 8-11 J Reid (4-7 fav) J Dunlop 6 ran

2.35 EDWARD SYNMORS & PARTNERS COCK O'THE NORTH HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,375: 6f) (8 runners)

1	(6)	20-4456	BABSY BABE 22 (F) (Mrs C Bloom) J Quinn 9-7	J Quinn	94
2	(5)	3-42001	WHITTLE ROCK 16 (D,F,G) (Bay Horse Racing Syndi) E Alston 9-2	J Fanning	98
3	(3)	024015	SUALTACH 14 (D,F,G,S) (R Sweeney) R Hollinshead 9-2	F Lynch (3)	97
4	(4)	5-0100	SPOTTED EAGLE 21 (D,F) (Lord Camarvon) R Hannon 9-2	J Carroll	91
5	(6)	220-040	BLESSINGINDISGUISE 21 (G) (A Stacy) M W Easterby 9-1	W Carson	96
6	(7)	0-22020	ALPINE HIDEAWAY 23 (Ms M Breslin) B Hanbury 8-12	Pat Eddery	95
7	(2)	0-11200	SPLICING 14 (D,G) (T Hinchliffe) W Haggas 8-12	B Thomson	103
8	(1)	065120	STONEY END 8 (D,F) (M Myers) M Channon 8-3	A Mackay	88

BETTING: 9-4 Whittle Rock, 3-1 Babsy Babe, 5-1 Spotted Eagle, 6-1 Sualtach, 7-1 Splicing, 10-1 Alpine Hideaway, 12-1 others.
1995: CHEYENNE SPIRIT 9-7 W Ryan (4-1) B Hanbury 8 ran

3.10 LETHEBY & CHRISTOPHER LANCASHIRE OAKS C4
(Group III: fillies: £20,920: 1m 3f 200yd) (10 runners)

1	(1)	5101-05	PHANTOM GOLD 15 (D,F,S) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 4-9-8	D Harrison	92
2	(6)	7313-16	SPOUT 6 (D,G,S) (Lady Rothschild) R Charlton 4-9-6	T Sprake	93
3	(9)	6022-55	ASTERITA 21 (F) (B Nielsen) R Hannon 4-9-3	R Hughes	90
4	(10)	4135-62	ELLIE ARDENSKY 14 (F,G) (Snailwell Stud Co Ltd) J Fanshawe 4-9-3	B Doyle	94
5	(4)	14	CABARET 23 (G) (I Allen) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-4	J Carroll	81
6	(8)	42	CLASSIC COLLEEN 16 (Classic Bloodstock Pte) R Hollinshead 3-8-4	A Mackay	85
7	(7)	21-2	MIN ALHAWA 23 (F) (H Al Maktoum) Major W Hern 3-8-4	W Carson	92
8	(2)	0-	MY EMMA 271 (Matthews Breeding and Racing) R Guest 3-8-4	F Lynch	50
9	(5)	5-310	NINOTCHKA 16 (CD,S) (Miss K Rausing) J Dunlop 3-8-4	G Carter	88
10	(3)	11-323	SHEMOZZLE 16 (F) (Lord Huntington) J Gosden 3-8-4	Pat Eddery	89

BETTING: 5-2 Shemozzle, 3-1 Phantom Gold, 7-2 Spout, 9-2 Min Alhawa, 8-1 Ellie Ardensky, Cabaret, 10-1 others.
1995: FANJICA 3-8-4 G Carter (5-1) J Dunlop 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

PHANTOM GOLD 5¼l 5th of 8 to Oscar Schindler in the group II Hardwicke Stakes at Ascot (1m 4f, good to firm) SPOUT beat Wayne County short-head in the 9-runner group III Lanes End John Porter Stakes at Newbury (1m 4f, good to soft) ELLIE ARDENSKY 1l 2nd of 11 to Salmon Ladder in a handicap at Ascot (1m 2f, good to firm). MIN ALHAWA head 2nd of 10 to Sardonic in a listed race at Newbury (1m 2f, good to firm) with CABARET 5¼l 4th. NINOTCHKA beat Generosa 6l in a 7-runner maiden at Haydock (1m 4f, good to soft). SHEMOZZLE neck and 1¼l 3rd of 10 to Tulipa in the group II Ribblesdale Stakes at Ascot (1m 4f, good to firm) with NINOTCHKA 22¼l 9th.
Selection: SPOUT

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Gosden	23	94	24.5	Pat Eddery	19	68	26.8
J Dunlop	26	108	24.1	W Carson	14	69	20.3
P Chapple-Hyam	7	29	24.1	T Sprake	6	32	18.8
B Charlton	9	41	22.0	B Doyle	4	29	13.8
W Haggas	3	14	21.4	D Harrison	4	35	11.4

SANDOWN PARK

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J H jumps. F H flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.40 LETHEBY & CHRISTOPHER OLD NEWTON CUP (Handicap: £17,994: 1m 3f 200yd) (8 runners) C4

1	(2)	0420/12	KEY TO MY HEART 30 (D,F,S) (Mrs M Pickering) Miss S Hall 8-10-0	R Hughes	94
2	(1)	116-340	SOURCE OF LIGHT 29 (D,BF,F,G,S) (K Abdulla) R Charlton 7-9-4	Pat Eddery	95
3	(6)	00-0000	KIND 17 (D,F,G) (Dayspring Co Ltd) C Britain 5-9-1	B Doyle	95
4	(3)	400-133	ROYAL SCIMITAR 22 (D,F,G) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 4-8-10	F Lynch (3)	98
5	(7)	0-31131	BASHETA 6 (D,F,S) (F O'Rourke) Miss C Rollaway 4-8-10	F Lynch	95
6	(8)	000165	SHERAZ 2 (G) (Speedfish Group) N Tinkler 4-8-8	Jo Hossam (3)	96
7	(3)	30-2038	BAILEYS FIRST 92 (G Bailey Ltd) M Johnston 3-8-8	K M Cain	97
8	(7)	511321	REBEL COUNTY 10 (D,F,G,S) (Show Time Ice Cream) A Bailey 3-8-7	L Newton	94
9	(4)	854	AMUSING ASIDE 32 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Watts 3-8-4	C Teague	92
10	(9)	1036-00	KINGFISHER BRAVE 19 (G) (C Whateley) M Meagher 3-8-3	R Studholme (5)	91

BETTING: 5-2 Baileys First, 9-2 Rebel County, 5-1 Noble Sprinter, 11-2 Danegold, 8-1 Led The Lucky, 10-1 Amusing Aside, 12-1 others.
1995: HILLZAH 7-10-0 H Bastiaan (11-4) R Bastiaan 3 ran

FORM FOCUS

KEY TO MY HEART 2½l 2nd of 5 to Kalaino in a conditions race at Chester (1m 4f 66yd, good to firm). SOURCE OF LIGHT 4l 4th of 6 to Backgammon in a handicap at Goodwood (1m 6f, good to soft) ROYAL SCIMITAR 3l and head 3rd of 9 to Talqan in a handicap at Goodwood (1m 4f, good to soft) AT LIBERTY 3½l 3rd of 20 to Tykeyvor in a handicap at Ascot (1m 4f, good to firm) with KIND (5lb better off) 7½l 9th. NABHAAN head 2nd short-head 3rd of 9 to Samaan in a handicap at Newbury (1m 4f, soft). CASUAL WATER 4½l 5th of 13 to Dance So Suite in an apprentice jockeys' handicap at Epsom (1m 4f, good)
Selection: KEY TO MY HEART

Nap: **BEAUCHAMP KING** (4.10 Sandown Park)
Next best: Pine Needle (4.45 Sandown Park)

4.15 ROBERT SICE MEMORIAL JULY TROPHY STAKES
(Listed race: 3-Y-O colts and geldings: £12,445: 1m 3f 200yd) (5 runners)

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Sheer Danzig realises owner's dream

By Richard Evans

SHEER DANZIG provided a fairytale success for his owner and jockey when he won the £90,000-added Hong Kong Jockey Club Trophy in the final strides at Sandown Park yesterday.

The Robert Armstrong-trained colt runs in the silks of Ronnie Arculli, a steward of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, who was present at the Esher racecourse to see his four-year-old battle through a downpour to deny Miss Universal by a short head in Britain's richest 1¼-mile handicap.

"We had our sights on this race a couple of months back and he has won by a thread. It is not very often I get to this country to see my horses run, let alone win, and on a day when the Hong Kong Jockey Club is the sponsor it is marvellous. I thought someone was going to shout fix," Arculli joked afterwards.

Before the race, Armstrong told Sheer Danzig's jockey, Wendyll Woods, he would only get out of the horse what he put in. The rider took the hint and, with several lengths to make up turning for home, Woods gave his all during the final half mile.

"I had to work hard on him. The more I kept at him and the more vigorous I was on him, the more he gave. I knew the moment I stopped, he would stop," the jockey said.

The victory could not come at a better time for Woods, who leaves next month for Hong Kong, where he will ride for his uncle, Lawrence Fownes, who trains at Sha Tin racecourse. "I started off in Hong Kong, riding about 150 winners during seven years, and I have always wanted to win this race. It is a like a dream come true," he said.

Double Trigger, the Mark Johnston-trained stayer and one of the public's favourite Flat horses, will not be leaving Britain for Saudi Arabia after all. The potential buyers of last year's Ascot Gold Cup winner decided to pull out of the deal after a veterinary inspection.

The five-year-old has got plastic shoes on two feet and will not be ready to defend the Goodwood Cup, but is likely to be aimed at the Doncaster Cup as well as being entered for the Melbourne Cup.

DAVID ROGERS/ALLSPORT



Sheer Danzig, left, lands the the Hong Kong Jockey Club Trophy from Miss Universal at Sandown Park yesterday

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Sandown Park

Going: good

2.00 (5f 6yd) 1. CLAN CHIEF (T Quinn, 3-1 fav) 2. Fairy Prince (Dane O'Neill, 9-2); 3. Sunset Harbour (J Quinn, 16-1). ALSO RAN 11-2 Need You Badly (5th), 15-2 Mystery Matthias (6th), 10 Cusmano, Minchrace (4th), 12 Pleasure Time, 20 Dancing Jack, 25 Music Mistress. 10 ran NR Rubi. 1½l, ¾l, sh hd, 1½l, sh hd J Arnold at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £1.80, £5.70. DF: £3.40. Tno: £72.90. CSF: £11.31. Tricast: £106.37.

2.35 (7f 16yd) 1. GREEN BARRIES (J Weaver, 9-1); 2. Dancing Image (T Quinn, 9-2 fav), 3, Alamein (N Fallon, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Dubai College, Newgate, 8 Polar Prospect (4th), 9 Amcer Allayaali (6th), 14 Don Bosco (5th). Musadama, Sound Check, 25 La Tansani, 33 Safio. 12 ran. Nk, 1½l, nk, ¾l, 3l. M Johnston at Middleham. Tote: £9.80; £2.80, £1.80, £1.90. DF: £16.90. Tno: £26.40. CSF: £47.11. Tricast: £249.92. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

3.10 (1m 2f 7yd) 1. SHEER DANZIG (W Woods, 10-1); 2, Miss Universal (B Doyle, 25-1); 3, Spirito Libero (M Baird, 50-1), 4, Silver Groom (J Quinn, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Missile, 11-2 Yeast, 6 Salmon Ladder, 10 Chief Burundi, Skiffington, 14 Winter Romance, 16 Major Change, Wilcuma (5th), 20 Believe Me, Hazard A Guess, Pleasant Surprise, Special Dawn, 33 Ball Gown, Hardy Dancer, 50 Komreyev Dancer (6th), 66 Fieldridge. 20 ran. Sh hd, 3l, 1¼l, ¾l, nk. R Armstrong at Newmarket. Tote: £13.90; £2.60, £6.60, £7.30, £1.90. DF: £336.70. Tno: £3,833.40 (part won; pool of £5,779.44 carried forward to 3.25 at Sandown Park today). CSF: £224.48. Tricast: £10,436.20.

3.40 (7f 16yd) 1. GROOM'S GORDON (Pat Eddery, 5-2); 2, Dalmeny Dancer (B Doyle, 8-1); 3, Melodaria (R Hughes, 8-1). ALSO RAN: Evens fav Bolgiavia (4th), 25 Lady Mail (6th), 33 Mulrotone (5th). 6 ran. 1¼l, 1½l, 2l, nk, 11l. J Dunlop at Arundel. Tote: £3.50; £1.50, £2.10. DF: £14.20. CSF: £18.52.

4.10 (5f 6yd) 1. VAX STAR (J Weaver, 9-4 fav), 2, Compton Place (S Sanders, 5-2); 3, Dancing Drop (Pat Eddery, 9-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 5 Granny's Pet (4th), 25 Bellynouche (5th). 5 ran. Hd, ¾l, 1¼l, 8l. J Spearing at Alcester. Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £2.00. DF: £3.00. CSF: £7.83.

4.40 (1m 6f) 1, CLERKENWELL (Pat Eddery, 8-11 fav), 2, Warning Reef (R Hughes, 9-2); 3, Belmarita (P Robinson, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Sharley Venture (5th), 20 Hever Golf Classic, 25 Anchor Venture, 33 Cypress Avenue (6th), Rivercare (4th), 50 Melomania, Spread The Word, 66 Silpans. 11 ran. 6l, 2½l, 4l, 4l, 16l. M Stoute at Newmarket. Tote: £1.80; £1.90, £1.70, £1.60. DF: £3.60. Tno: £7.70. CSF: £5.00. Jackpot: £4,107.90.

Placepot: £124.10. Quadpot: £27.50.

Haydock Park

Going: good

2.20 (1m 3f 200yd) 1, Pharly Dancer (R Lappin, 5-4 fav), 2, Trade Wind (15-2), 3, Shabanaz (7-2). 7 ran. 2½l, 1¼l. W Haigh. Tote: £2.00; £1.30, £3.10. DF: £9.40. CSF: £10.42.

2.50 (6f) 1. Demolition Man (J Carroll, 11-2), 2, Myrmidon (9-4 fav); 3, Foxes Tail (20-1). 12 ran. 2l, 2l. J Watts. Tote: £6.00; £1.70, £1.40, £5.50. DF: £9.00. Trio: £233.70 (part won, pool of £131.70 carried forward to 3.25 at Sandown Park today). CSF: £19.02.

3.25 (5f) 1, Gwaspyr (J Carroll, 8-1), 2, Sharp Mordy (9-1), 3, Malibu Man (11-2). Sing With The Band 7-2 fav. 12 ran. 1¾l, nk. J Berry. Tote: £9.40; £2.70, £2.90, £2.20. DF: £55.70. Trio: £86.10. CSF: £74.17. Tricast: £406.10.

3.55 (7f 30yd) 1, Seseedo (Emma O'Gorman, 7-2 [t-fav]); 2, Band On The Run (5-1); 3, Bollin Joanne (6-1). Astrac 7-2 fav. 8 ran. 2l, 1¼l. W O'Gorman. Tote: £4.80; £1.80, £1.80, £1.30. DF: £10.50. CSF: £20.81. Tricast: £94.70. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

4.30 (6f) 1, Awarti (B Thomson, 5-1); 2, Mcmlendre (7-2); 3, Lacrymae Christi (4-1). My Melody Parlee. 8-5 fav. 6 ran. ¾l, 1¼l. M Muir. Tote: £6.80; £2.70, £2.10. DF: £12.70. CSF: £24.50.

5.00 (1m 6f) 1, Welsh Mill (A Culhane, 6-1); 2, Tungeney (2-1 fav), 3, Raffles Rooster (7-1). 7 ran. Sh hd, ½l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £7.90; £2.50, £1.90. DF: £8.00. CSF: £17.80.

Placepot: £140.90. Quadpot: £17.80.

Warwick

Going: good to firm, last mile good

2.10 (1m 2f 169yd) 1, Baranov (D Harrison, 25-1), 2, Jean Pierre (12-1); 3, Full Throttle (5-1 fav); 4, Victoria's Secret (12-1). 19 ran. NR: Gee Gee Tee. 1½l, 9l. D Murray Smith. Tote: £35.70; £4.40, £3.50, £1.60, £3.10. DF: £488.60. Tno: £272.10 (part won; pool of £314.29 carried forward to 3.25 at Sandown Park today). CSF: £291.05. Tricast: £1,622.14.

2.40 (1m) 1, Orchard Gold (G Bardwell, 25-1), 2, Thatchmaster (6-1 fav), 3, Born A Lady (8-1); 4, Elite Racing (12-1). 19 ran. NR: Northern Grey. 2l, ¼l. J Pearce. Tote: £73.90; £10.20, £1.60, £2.80. DF: £3.50. CSF: £245.00. Tno: not won (pool of £290.38 carried forward to 3.25 at Sandown Park today). CSF: £172.47. Tricast: £1,247.22.

3.15 (5f) 1, Chadwell Hall (C Teague, 5-1), 2, Shadow Jury (6-1), 3, Palacegate Jack (9-2). Tart And A Half 7-2 fav. 7 ran. Sh hd, 1½l. S Bowring. Tote: £7.80; £1.90, £2.90. DF: £36.00. CSF: £31.92.

3.45 (7f) 1, Gunny Woosermame (T Sprake, 11-4); 2, Irish Fiction (11-4); 3, Abatono Queen (10-1). Dashing Rocksville 5-2 fav. 7 ran. ¾l, 2½l. W G M Turner. Tote: £4.10; £2.30, £2.50. DF: £4.50. CSF: £9.90.

4.20 (1m) 1, Go Britannia (D R McCabe, 5-6 fav), 2, Melt The Clouds (4-1), 3, Accandy (5-1). 11 ran. NR: Marley's Song. Sh, nk. D Loder. Tote: £1.90; £1.20, £1.40, £1.50. DF: £4.30. Tno: £5.70. CSF: £5.09.

4.50 (1m 6f 194yd) 1, Mr Speculator (G Bardwell, 16-1); 2, Labeed (11-4 fav), 3, Colendge (6-1). 11 ran. 3l, 2½l. P Kelleway. Tote: £20.60; £2.90, £1.90, £2.30. DF: £22.30. Trio: £84.40. CSF: £57.19. Tricast: £280.00.

Placepot: £386.60. Quadpot: £17.40.

Thursday's late details

Ayr

Going: good to soft

6.35 (7f) 1, Brave Act (G Duffield, 11-8), 2, Musheer (5-4 fav); 3, Bravo Montgomerie (10-1). 6 ran. 4l, 3l. M Prescot. Tote: £2.80; £1.20, £1.60. DF: £1.50. CSF: £3.20.

7.05 (7f) 1, Oriole (Kim Tinkler, 10-11, 2, Napoleon's Return (5-2 fav); 3, Rocky Stream (12-1). 10 ran. Hd, 1½l. N Tinkler. Tote: £9.90; £1.70, £1.10, £3.10. DF: £12.60. Tno: £57.80. CSF: £31.61. Tricast: £260.86.

7.35 (1m 5f 13yd) 1, Desert Frolic (J Weaver, 4-5 fav), 2, Northern Motto (6-1), 3, Lord Advocate (14-1). 6 ran. 3½l, 8l. M Johnston. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £2.10. DF: £4.90. CSF: £6.27.

8.05 (1m 2f) 1, Society Girl (D McKeown, 4-6 fav); 2, Time For A Glass. (10-1), 3, Silent Guest (5-2). 5 ran. NR: Veshca Lady. ¼l, 12l. C Thornton. Tote: £1.40, £1.30, £1.70. DF: £6.00. CSF: £7.25.

8.35 (1m) 1, Sabrak (P Robinson, 9-4), 2, Tameem (7-4 fav), 3, Respecting (66-1) 9 ran. NR: Shamokin. 7l, 6l. M Jarvis. Tote: £3.40, £1.50, £1.10, £4.80. DF: £4.70. Tno: £190.90. CSF: £6.31.

9.05 (5f) 1, Rich Glow (K Fallon, 3-1), 2, Silk Cottage (11-4 fav); 3, Amron (7-2). 7 ran. Swan At Whalley. 1¾l, 1½l. N Bycroft. Tote: £2.60; £2.20, £2.00. DF: £3.60. Trio: £3.10. CSF: £8.72. Tricast: £16.03. Rhythmic Dancer (11-2) withdrawn; not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 15p in pound.

Placepot: £5.80. Quadpot: £2.80.

Haydock Park

Going: good to soft

6.50 (7f 30yd) 1, Ballard Lady (P Doe, 9-1); 2, Royal Comedian (20-1), 3, My Gallery (10-3 fav) 13 ran. 2l, nk. J Wainwright. Tote: £10.10; £2.60, £7.10, £2.10. DF: £55.50. Tno: £227.90. CSF: £168.84. Tricast: £536.64.

7.20 (6f) 1, Victoria's Dream (W Carson, 13-2); 2, Veerapong (14-1), 3, Sueve Star (4-1) Woodetto 7-4 fav. 8 ran. 1l, 2½l. M Channon. Tote: £5.60; £1.30, £4.90, £1.30. DF: £39.40. CSF: £81.98. Bought in 6,800gns.

7.50 (1m 3f 200yd) 1, Lalindi (T Quinn, 7-2 [t-fav]; 2, Alicia (4-1); 3, Naval Gazer (9-2). Temptress. 7-2 fav. 7 ran. Nk, 10l. D Elsworth. Tote: £4.80; £1.80, £2.00. DF: £9.90. CSF: £18.08.

8.20 (6f) 1, Maid O'Cannle (T Quinn, 9-2); 2, Nilgiri Hills (9-2); 3, U-No-Harry (7-1). Almasi. 4-1 fav. 9 ran. Sh hd, hd. M W Easterby. Tote: £5.90; £1.80, £1.50, £2.00. DF: £12.90. Trio: £18.70. CSF: £25.30. Tricast: £133.06. After a stewards' inquiry, U-No-Harry who finished second, was disqualified and placed third.

8.50 (7f 30yd) 1, Rivers Magic (B Thomson, 20-1); 2, Saleemah (6-4 fav); 3, Woodbury Lad (11-2). 13 ran. 1l, 4l. D Chappell. Tote: £37.90; £5.60, £1.30, £1.70. DF: £33.10. Tno: £170.20. CSF: £51.77.

9.20 (1m 6f) 1, The Swan (W Carson, 5-6 fav); 2, Charming Admiral (11-4), 3, Dancing Cavalier (9-2). 5 ran. Hd, 14l. J Dunlop. Tote: £1.70; £1.50, £1.90. DF: £2.00. CSF: £3.70. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

Placepot: £109.20. Quadpot: £12.70.

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8 JUL	ONE 2 ONE	COLLINGTREE PARK	45
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9 JUL	HONEYWELL CONTROL SYSTEMS LTD	THE OXFORDSHIRE	50
9 JUL	MCNICHOLAS CONSTRUCTION	HEMDON	80
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9 JUL	PFIZER	ASHFORD	40
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10 JUL	AVON & WILTSHIRE HEALTH SERVICE	THORNBURY	16
10 JUL	BRITISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION	SUNNINGDALE	45
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11 JUL	IBH NORTH DOWN HOSPITAL	REIGATE HEATH	24
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NOTTINGHAM

THUNDERER

6.50 Fijon. 7.20 Moccasin. 7.50 Maria Di Castiglia. 8.20 Infantry Dancer. 8.50 How Could-I. 9.20 Spa Lane.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS
DRAW: 6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.50 FAMILY NIGHT SELLING HANDICAP
(£1,865: 1m 6l 15yd) (16 runners)

1 50-0 HIGH FLOWN 283 (G) R Thompson 4-9-10 — R Havlin (5) 2
2 3550 FIJON 12 B Hills 3-9-8 — B Thomson 1
3 0/6 JOHN TUFTY 12 J Pearce 5-8-6 — G Bardwell 12
4 -002 RISKY ROSE 12 (D,F,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-3 — D Griffiths (5) 7
5 00-3 TTYFRAN 10 (F) B Baugh 8-9-3 — W Lord 8
6 0050 ROSE CHIME 40 (F) J L Harris 4-8-12 — D Biggs 9
7 0-00 LEAP IN THE DARK 5 (F,G) Miss L Siddall 7-8-11 — D R McCabe 10
8 405- BUD'S BET 27J Miss J Craze 8-8-11 — J Lowe 11
9 3003 SHAMAND 23 B Meehan 3-8-10 — J Tate 14
10 0005 BRESIL 8 (F) K Burke 7-8-9 — R Hughes 4
11 /0-0 TOUT DE VAL 14 K Bishop 7-9-9 — T Sprake 3
12 /0-0 SALUTATION 14 (V) T Kersey 5-8-8 — N Carlisle 15
13 0-60 BOLD JOKER 12 G Oldroyd 5-8-7 — Dale Gibson 13
14 556- TEDROMA 364 J Scargill 6-8-5 — N Adams 16
15 5-60 CLUB ELITE 7 M Barraclough 4-8-3 — P P Murphy (5) 6
16 P006 FRIENDLY DREAMS 5 (B) P Dalton 3-7-11 — R Cody-Boutcher (7) 5

3-1 Shamand. 4-1 Thyfran. 5-1 Risky Rose, 7-1 Bud's Bet, 8-1 Fijon, Tedroma, 10-1 Leap In The Dark, 12-1 others.

7.20 PLAYQUEST MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,132: 6l 15yd) (10)

1 DRIFT M Prescot 8-10 — W Woods 4
2 0 NEVER GOLF DANCER 26 T Naughton 8-10 — R Hughes 8
3 0 UNION TOWN 5 M Prescot 8-10 — C Nutter 10
4 HAVAGO R Hannon 8-6 — Dane O'Neill (3) 5
5 MOCCASIN P Webber 8-5 — B Thomson 2
6 2 PAT SAID NO 14 (BF) D Cosgrove 8-5 — J Stack 9
7 64 JACK FLUSH 18 B Rothwell 8-3 — M Fenton 1
8 TWO BILLS A Steeles 8-3 — T Sprake 7
9 50 APRIL JACKSON 32 P Dalton 8-1 — N Adams 3
10 2 SMUGLRS 25 R Williams 7-12 — J Quinn 6

11-4 Havago. 3-1 Smuggus, 7-2 Pat Said No, 9-2 Drift, 6-1 Jack Flush, 10-1 Moccasin, Union Town, 12-1 others.

7.50 TALES OF ROBIN HOOD CLAIMING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £1,932. 6f 15yd) (5)

1 3421 IRISH FICTION 23 (F) D Cosgrove 9-2 — Martin Dwyer (5) 4
2 JUICY TING P Haslam 9-2 — J Stack 5
3 02 MAIRIA DI CASTIGLIA 9 R Hannon 8-11 — Dane O'Neill (3) 1
4 301 TAOME 9 (F) P Evans 8-9 — J Fortune 2
5 5044 SUMMER RISOTTO 19 D French Davis 8-1 — N Carlisle 3

3-1 Maria Di Castiglia, 9-4 Taome, 7-2 Irish Fiction, 5-1 Summer Risotto, 10-1 Juicy Ting.

8.20 NOTTINGHAM EVENING POST MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£3,857: 1m 1f 213yd) (13)

1 500- DELLA CASA 268 J Dunlop 3-9-10 — W Carson 8
2 /00 REX MUNDI 19 P Evans 4-9-8 — J Fortune 3
3 0-05 FIKRA 61 S Woods 3-9-4 — W Woods 8
4 0052 TARIAN 9 G Balding 4-9-3 — K Fallon 2
5 0043 RACING HAWK 9 M Saunders 4-9-1 — P P Murphy (5) 4
6 555- INFANTRY DANCER 339 G Bravery 3-9-0 — N Day 12
7 0-45 SOVIET KING 15 P Mitchell 3-8-12 — R Hughes 1
8 -004 ZOENKA 12 M Blanshard 3-8-11 — J Dalton 13
9 9-00 ISLA GLEN 12 M McCormack 3-8-11 — M Fenton 10
10 /0-0 LADY PLOY 7 Miss L Siddall 4-8-6 — D R McCabe 11
11 404- SHOULDBEGREY 14 (BF) W Muir 3-8-1 — Dane O'Neill (3) 5
12 006 FORGET PARIS 16 B Rothwell 3-8-1 — J Stack 7
13 00-0 TOTALLY DIFFERENT 24 G Oldroyd 3-7-10 — Dale Gibson 9

3-1 Della Casa. 9-2 Fikra, 5-1 Soviet King, 6-1 Infantry Dancer, 8-1 Tarian, Forget Paris, 10-1 Isla Glen, 12-1 others.

8.50 BBC RADIO NOTTINGHAM HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,572. 1m 54yd) (9)

1 1166 LADY DIGNITY 35 (D,G) P Makin 9-7 — R Havlin (5) 7
2 -003 RED RUSTY 21 (D,G) D Morris 9-4 — A Eddery (7) 1
3 1112 HAWKSLEY HILL 43 (BF,F,G) Mrs J Ramsden 9-3 — K Fallon 9
4 0004 FLAME OF HOPE 14 J Dunlop 8-12 — T Sprake 4
5 005 IN THE HIGHLANDS 21 D Cosgrove 8-7 — Dale Gibson 6
6 2006 CERISE 23 (B) W Elsey 8-6 — Martin Dwyer (5) 5
7 0231 HOW COULD-I 12 (B,CD,F) Mrs N Macauley 7-13 — J Quinn 3
8 -003 DYANNO 21 M Saunders 7-12 — N Varley (3) 8
9 000- SIZZLING SERENADE 217 J A Harris 7-10 — J Lowe 2

5-2 Hawksley Hill, 9-2 Cerise, 5-1 Red Rusty, How Could-I, 11-2 Flame Of Hope, 6-1 Lady Dignity, 8-1 In The Highlands, 10-1 others.

9.20 FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY LIMITED STAKES
(3-Y-O: £1,932. 1m 1f 213yd) (11)

1 -000 HANK-A-CHIEF 9 (B) B Smart 9-0 — J Stack 9
2 -000 PRINCE ZIGIM 33 C Dwyer 9-0 — N Varley (3) 1
3 0060 REALMS OF GLORY 14 P Mitchell 9-0 — J Quinn 6
4 0-21 SPA LANE 26 (CD,F) P Makin 9-0 — R Havlin (5) 11
5 6542 TWO SOCKS 12 M McCormack 9-0 — R Hughes 4
6 -066 CRIMSON ROSELLA 21 W Haggas 8-11 — R McGhin 10
7 00-4 FIONA SHANN 69 J Dunlop 8-11 — W Carson 2
8 000- FROG 336 M Prescott 8-11 — W Woods 8
9 0020 ISLAY BROWN 19 (B) W Elsey 8-11 — K Fallon 5
10 1045 MISS PRAVDA 19 (F) P Walwyn 8-11 — Dane O'Neill (3) 7
11 0-05 SYLVELLA 23 M Jarvis 8-11 — P Robinson 3

4-1 Spa Lane. 5-1 Two Socks, 6-1 Fiona Shann, 7-1 Crimson Rosella, Sylvella, Miss Pravda, 8-1 Realms Of Glory, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: W Haggas, 5 winners from 18 runners, 27.8%; M Prescott, 8 from 32, 25.0%; J Dunlop, 21 from 102, 20.6%; B Hills, 8 from 40, 20.0%; M Jarvis, 5 from 31, 16.1%; P Walwyn, 5 from 31, 16.1%; J Pearce, 4 from 27, 14.8%.

JOCKEYS: W Carson, 24 winners from 137 rides, 17.5%; T Sprake, 10 from 62, 16.1%; D Harrison, 10 from 72, 13.9%; P Robinson, 15 from 111, 13.5%; M Fenton, 7 from 69, 10.1%. Only qualifiers

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Quinzii Martin. 7.30 Rocky Waters. 8.00 Taufan Boy. 8.30 Etterby Park. 9.00 Grovefair Dancer. 9.30 Delrob.

GOING: STANDARD — SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

7.00 BLUE SILK LIMITED STAKES
(£2,450: 7f) (12 runners)

1 0001 MISTER RM 6 (C,D,G) R Guest 4-9-6 — P Bloomfield 11
2 5500 MR MORIARTY 54 (G) S Bowring 5-9-6 — D McKeown 3
3 000- BEST OF BOLD 183 (B) N Graham 4-8-11 — B Doyle 12
4 6310 DAVID JAMES' GIRL 5 (CD,BF,G,S) A Bailey 4-8-11 — Angela Gallimore (7) 6
5 0400 JON'S CHOICE 16 (CD,G) B Preece 8-8-11 — V Slattery 5
6 0000 PEACEFULL REPLY 18 (F) F Lee 5-8-11 — G Carter 1
7 4536 QUINZII MARTIN 8 (V,CD,G) D Haydn Jones 8-8-11 — A Mackay 10
8 6465 BROOKHEAD LADY 10 (F,G,S) P Evans 5-8-9 — S Sanders 9
9 5334 BATTLE SPARK 15 C Dyer 3-8-0 — S Sanders 1
10 0-36 TAUFAN BOY 22 (V,S) P Harris 3-8-13 — B Doyle 11
11 5640 LEAD HIM ON 29 P Harris 3-8-5 — S Whitworth 10
12 3116 DOMINO FLYER 16 (D,G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 3-8-2 — G Carter 9

9-2 Equerry, 5-1 Johnnie The Joker, 7-1 Mr Teigh, 8-1 Taufan Boy, Benbco, Field Of Vision, 10-1 others.

8.30 DICK GREENHALGH HANDICAP
(£3,261: 1m 4f) (10)

1 0001 CLAQUE 14 (B,CD,G) D Chapman 4-10-0 — A Culhane 4
2 0304 CHEVALIER 8 I Campbell 4-10-0 — G Faulkner (7) 9
3 0010 RIVAL BID 12 (C,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 8-9-11 — C Teague (3) 6
4 0000 STEVIE'S WONDER 8 (C,D,G,S) B Llewellyn 6-9-11 — M Baird (5) 2
5 0415 IN THE MONEY 14 (CD,F,G) R Hollinshead 7-9-10 — F Lynch (3) 10
6 3-31 TINTARA 61 (D,F) B Hills 3-8-11 — J D Smith (5) 3
7 00-0 DRAGON ROSE 12 T Tate 4-8-11 — D McKeown 8
8 0312 HARBET HOUSE 5 (D,BF,G) C Dyer 3-8-7 — B Doyle 1
9 0131 ETTERBY PARK 3 (D,F,S) M Johnston 3-8-6 (5ex) — J Weaver 7
10 -000 PULGA CIRCO 12 B McMahon 3-7-10 — K Yu (7) 5

9-4 Etterby Park, 9-2 In The Money, 5-1 Tintara, Rival Bid, 8-1 Claque, Harbet House, 10-1 Stevie's Wonder, 12-1 others.

9.00 FIGARO SELLING STAKES
(Qualifier: 2-Y-O: £2,415: 7f) (6)

1 00 READ YOUR CONTRACT 15 (V) J Berry 8-11 — G Carter 2
2 62 RISCATTO 8 W Muir 8-11 — J Weaver 4
3 SIBOR STAR D Buchell 8-11 — S Drowne (3) 3
4 521 GROVEFAIR DANCER 8 (CD,G) Miss S Watson 8-10 — S Whitworth 1
5 3333 ABSTONE QUEEN 1 P Evans 8-6 — S Sanders 5
6 56 TINKERBELL 23 (V) Lord Huntingdon 8-6 — D Harrison 6

2-1 Grovelair Dancer, 5-2 Riscatto, 9-2 Tinkerbell, 5-1 Abstone Queen, 8-1 Sibor Star, 12-1 Read Your Contract.

9.30 MONTEGO BAY HANDICAP (£2,519: 5f) (9)

1 2-00 SCORED AGAIN 28 (CD,F,G,S) M Heaton-Ellis 6-10-0 — Amanda Sanders (5) 5
2 1030 LLOC 38 (D,S) C Dwyer 4-9-8 — F Lynch (3) 1
3 504- STEAL 'EM 287 A Bailey 3-9-7 — Angela Gallimore (7) 2
4 0331 DELROB 8 (V,CD,F,G) D Haydn Jones 5-9-4 — A Mackay 8
5 5360 NAPIER STAR 16 (G) Mrs M Macauley 3-9-2 — C Teague (3) 6
6 0000 BAJAN FRONTIER 58 (CD,G) F Lee 4-9-0 — G Carter 3
7 0060 HIGHLAND FAWN 12 (CD,G) B McMahon 3-8-10 — S Sanders 9
8 0606 MAAN BANJER 9 (B,D,F,G,S) W Muir 10-8-10 — G Bardwell 4
9 -000 BALLYSOKERRY 17 (B) J Parkes 5-7-10 — D Wright (3) 7

5-2 Deimos, 7-2 Lloc, 5-1 Steal 'em, 7-1 Scored Again, 8-1 Napier Star, Bajan Frontier, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Guest, 7 winners from 28 runners, 25.0%; M Johnston, 37 from 149, 24.8%; C Dwyer, 4 from 17, 23.5%; Lord Huntingdon, 17 from 79, 21.5%; F Lee, 3 from 15, 20.0%; N Graham, 3 from 18, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: G Carter, 39 winners from 193 rides, 20.2%; J Weaver, 51 from 257, 19.8%; F Lynch, 14 from 87, 16.1%; Amanda Sanders, 9 from 57, 15.8%; B Doyle, 8 from 64, 12.5%; A Clark, 19 from 157, 12.1%.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER

7.10 Can Can Lady. 7.40 Kummel King. 8.10 Sandblaster. 8.40 Desert Frolic. 9.10 Invigilate. 9.40 Barato.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

7.10 C F M SOUND OF SUMMER MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,633: 5f 207yd) (7 runners)

1 BROCTUNE LINE Mrs M Reveley 8-6 — G Urbina 6
2 00 BALLYDINERO 37 J Wilson 8-3 — J Carroll 1
3 02 THE DEEJAY 18 (F) M Britain 8-3 — G Parkin (5) 3
4 0 BLOOMSY BABE 19 J Quinn 8-1 — M Deering 2
5 4 CAN CAN LADY 10 M Johnston 8-1 — J Fanning 4
6 5 KITTY GALORE 18 M Dods 8-1 — J F Egan 5
7 ZYDECHO QUEEN P Calver 7-12 — Darren Moffatt (3) 7

9-4 The Deejay, 5-2 Broctune Line, 4-1 Can Can Lady, 7-1 Ballydinero, 8-1 Zydecho Queen, Kitty Galore, 25-1 Bloomsy Babe.

7.40 MACMILLAN NURSES CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,968: 6f 206yd) (10)

1 -206 MOVE WITH EDES 37 (D,F) W G M Turner 4-9-8 — D Sweeney (7) 10
2 000/ VENUS VICTORIOUS 647 R Bastiman 5-9-5 — N Bastiman (5) 6
3 4323 DOUBLE OSCAR 19 (B,BF,F) M Johnston 3-9-4 — K M Cain (5) 8
4 306/ TIBBI BLUES 2261 W Storey 5-9-3 — Iona Wands (7) 7
5 0244 BACKHANDER S M Wane 4-9-0 — J Carroll 2
6 0645 WASBLEST 9 (G) J Berry 4-8-13 — P Roberts (5) 1
7 0000 BATTLE COLOURS 16 (D,F,G) F Jessop 7-8-12 — Kim Tinkler 9
8 0000 STEEL SOVEREIGN 19 (G) M Dods 5-8-12 — J F Egan 3
9 0000 KUMMEL KING 26 (V,CD,F,G) E Alston 8-8-10 — A Procter 4
10 6340 TALLULAH BELLE 1 N Littmoden 3-8-3 — N Kennedy 5

3-1 Double Oscar, 7-2 Move With Edes, 4-1 Backhander, 9-2 Washbest, 6-1 Tallulah Belle, 12-1 Steel Sovereign, 14-1 Venus Victorious, 16-1 others.

8.10 STARBIRD HANDICAP
(£2,857: 7f 214yd) (12)

1 0022 ZAIN DANCER 4 (BF) D Nicholls 4-9-12 — J F Egan 7
2 0040 GILLING DANCER 14 P Calver 3-9-1 — M Birch 5
3 5550 CEE-JAY-AY 10 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 9-9-3 — P Roberts (5) 8
4 2326 SANDBLASTER 14 (BF) Mrs J Ramsden 3-9-2 — D Urbina 11
5 6300 HAWHAM 8 (D,F,G,S) E Alston 10-9-0 — A Procter 1
6 6000 NOBBY BARNES 5 (D,F,G) E Incisa 7-8-13 — Kim Tinkler 2
7 5043 JIMJAREER 9 (G) J Wilson 3-8-11 — J Carroll 12
8 -034 SUMMER VILLA 7 (D,G) J Hetherton 4-8-11 — G Parkin (5) 6
9 420- WARWICK MIST 217 B Mactaggart 4-8-5 — N Connorton 10
10 000 LITTLE REG 15 (B) R Craggs 5-8-1 — J Fanning 9
11 0-63 TONTO 22 C Thornton 3-7-13 — T Williams 4
12 060 MR TITCH 19 Denys Smith 3-7-10 — N Kennedy 3

3-1 Jimjareer, 7-2 Cee-Jay-Ay, 4-1 Zain Dancer, 9-2 Summer Villa, 5-1 Sandblaster, 12-1 Nobby Barnes, Gilling Dancer, 16-1 others.

CRICKET: LORD'S INNINGS REMAINS ENDURING REMINDER OF AZHARUDDIN'S REMARKABLE POWERS

Genius worthy of more fitting final curtain call

MICHAEL HENDERSON



Test Match Commentary

His deeds are nearly done, his race is almost run. Mohammad Azharuddin shuffled off yesterday after failing for the fourth time in this series, snared in the leg trap Michael Atherton had set. Unless the signs are misleading, this is his last Test as the captain of India, so, if he does not bat again here, that brief innings may be his last will and testament in this country.

By the strictest standards, he has fallen short of greatness, but that rather misses the point. Few cricketers of the last 20 years have given more pleasure to more people, the world over. Azharuddin has served the game with grace and, in an age when too many sportsmen luxuriate in revolting narcissism, he has enjoyed his success with humility. We should remember him for that, not the run of low scores that accompany this leave-taking.

It has been a thin summer for a batsman who, at 33, should be in the thick of things. In four innings, he has contributed only 34 runs. Twice, he has been caught close in on the on side, going for his favourite flick, and at Edgbaston he was bowled behind his legs for a duck. To fail against England, against whom he has made six of his 14 Test hundreds, is significant. Clearly his mind is wandering.

Like Wasim Akram, the captain of Pakistan, he survived his team's failure in the World Cup. They both had to endure more abuse than a cricketer ever should, so high were the expectations in both countries, but whereas Wasim, who is three years younger and is hardened by his first unsuccessful attempt at captaincy, has regained his appetite for the job Azharuddin is ready to hand over his badge to Sachin Tendulkar.

English bowlers have seen the best of Azharuddin and English crowds certainly have. It was as a 21-year-old that he began his Test career with those celebrated three consecutive hundreds against David Gower's team in 1985 and it was six years ago, as the newly-appointed captain, that he adorned "Gooch's match" at Lord's with one of the most glorious centuries the ground has surely ever seen.

Some of his on-side strokes that day belonged to a contortionist. Azharuddin's wrists, like Betty Grable's legs, are not any old common-or-garden ones. On that Saturday afternoon at Lord's, he took balls from outside off stump and spirited them away, anywhere between long leg and mid-wicket. On faster pitches, in other parts of the world, he struggled to combat the extra pace and bounce, but his batting that day was of a rare beauty.

Think of him as an enchanter. Even at his best, there was something vulnerable about his batting, in a way there never was about Sunil Gavaskar or, seeking a modern parallel, Brian Lara.

Where Lara's gifts are cast in bronze, Azharuddin's might have been traced by a Meissen potter. Like a Meissen vase, he could crack easily, as he did yesterday, and it was sad to see.

It has not been a good summer for him, or his team. Kambli wasn't selected for this tour and Sidhu went flouncing home when he was dropped from the one-day side. Thank goodness for Tendulkar, whose batting grows apace, and for Ganguly, the elegant left-hander whose successive hundreds may have reminded the captain of his own startling introduction to the theatre of Test cricket.

These are men for the future. For the time being, remember a man whose best days are behind him and send him on his way with a silent cheer.

ADRIAN MURRELL



Azharuddin trudges back to the pavilion after being dismissed cheaply yesterday

Mushtaq maintains good employee relations

BY SIMON WILDE

TAUNTON (final day of three): the Pakistanis beat Somerset by 105 runs

MUSHTAQ AHMED pleased both Pakistan and Somerset supporters alike by bowling the touring team to their first first-class win of their tour at Taunton yesterday. The leg spinner returned second-innings figures of five for 72 — giving him a match haul of ten for 108 — and the contest was so one-sided towards the end that local spectators cheered on the county's "resident" overseas player rather than maintain the pretence that Somerset might escape a heavy defeat.

The home side, asked to score 316 to win in a minimum of 78 overs, slipped quietly to defeat by 4.25pm with 19.1 overs remaining and gave an insipid batting performance for the second time in the match. They were all out for 210 and, from lunch onwards, formed a sorry procession to the pavilion.

In a season in which it is widely hoped that county batsmen will show a greater aptitude for rearguard actions, it was far from encouraging to see a side give up the ghost quite so timidly. Even though they were without four first-team regulars, Somerset should have done better than be dismissed twice for an aggregate of 369 in only 99 overs.

Their sole excuse yesterday was that Shane Lee, the Australian all-rounder who is Mushtaq's temporary stand-in as overseas player, was carrying a badly bruised left hand and was scarcely fit for battle. Although he batted, he was out to his second ball, pushing forward gingerly to Mushtaq and being caught at silly mid-off. Lee's nought took his average below 100 and also lost him the leading position in the first-class averages.

Of his colleagues, only Bowler, the acting captain, who scored his second half-century of the match, and Ecclestone, with a belligerent 57, dug themselves in. Lathwell and Trescothick, of whom so much is expected, again failed to deliver a big innings, although Lathwell reeled off some crisp boundaries as he and Bowler brought up the 50 in quick time.

Somerset's task ought to have been made easier by the withdrawal from the attack of Waqar Younis, who, as a precaution, bowled only three overs before departing to nurse a strained hamstring. However, once Lathwell had pulled a ball from Mohammad Akram into the hands of backward square leg, the Pakistanis were content to leave Mushtaq and two part-time spinners to exploit a turning pitch. Ecclestone alone took the attack to Mushtaq, hitting him twice for six.

A 40-minute onslaught from Inzamam-ul-Haq had set up the touring team's declaration in the morning. Smiting the ball with his customary power, he struck two sixes off Batty and four fours in an unbeaten 51 that occupied only 42 balls.

His runs came out of 67 added to an overnight score of 107 for one, but that was enough to leave Somerset a target that they never even entertained chasing.

Aamir Sohail did not resume his innings because of a strained hamstring, but it did not prevent him taking the field later — or, indeed, giving his left-arm spin an extend airing.

Wells overflows with confidence

BY PAT GIBSON

LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 141 runs ahead of Essex

VINCE WELLS for England? It was not a thought that would have crossed even his own mind when the Leicestershire all-rounder was turning his back on his native Kent in frustration at his lack of opportunities five years ago, but it did not seem such a preposterous suggestion yesterday when he was taking his aggregate of runs to 557 in his last four innings.

Wells followed his 200 against Yorkshire in the county championship and 201 against Berkshire in the NatWest Trophy with a commanding 150 not out to make sure that Leicestershire did not throw away the advantage their bowlers had given them by bowling out Essex for 163.

There was a time when they looked like doing so. Four wickets went down for nine runs in five overs either side of lunch before Millns, revelling in his exalted position at No 8, joined Wells in a stirring seventh-wicket partnership that had just reached 100 when a heavy downpour 20 minutes before tea ended play for the day.

By then, Wells had been batting for more than five hours, faced 265 balls and struck 22 fours in an innings of the highest quality. He had made only two centuries in 78 first-class matches before this season, but, when Leicestershire needed a new opener because injury had forced Briers into retirement, Macmillan had not fitted the bill and Simmons preferred to go down the order, their coach, Jack Birkenshaw, was convinced that Wells was the man for the job.

"It was just a question of him believing in himself," Birkenshaw said. "He is a class batsman, he can swing the ball away at a decent pace and I certainly think that he has got the talent to play for England."

Wells probably thinks so, too, in his present vein of form. He had resumed on 58 and rarely looked in any trouble, despite a much-improved performance by Essex, who held what looked like a crisis meeting in the middle before play began and responded with a brand of cricket which was on a different plane to anything they had produced the day before.

Irani found early movement to have Maddy caught at first slip and although Smith helped Wells raise 61 for the second wicket, he never looked in touch before Williams had him caught behind. Andrew achieved unexpected bounce to have Simmons caught at second slip and then had Whitaker taken at first slip.

Two more wickets fell in Irani's first over after the interval. Habib falling leg-before offering no stroke and Nixon playing on, but Wells continued to drive and pull with great freedom and when Millns put bat to ball so effectively that he reached 50 off 86 balls, with eight fours, Leicestershire were back on top.

Wells: inspired form

Durham maintain interest

BY IVO TENNANT

MAIDSTONE (second day of four): Durham, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 146 runs behind Kent

DURHAM needed to make 214 to avoid following on against Kent yesterday and, for a long while, it was by no means certain that they would achieve their goal. Until Mike Roseberry and Phil Bainbridge came together, there was a lack of gumption about their innings. When rain stopped play shortly after 4pm, they had, at least, ensured that Kent would have to bat again.

Bainbridge, as with other itinerant cricketers, came to Durham in the hope of prolonging his career. That is still the case. A year ago, he said that he would retire at the end of this summer, a decision he is now reconsidering. He recently made 83 against Gloucestershire, his best score of the season. What with scoring 71 yesterday, an innings that included 12 fours, he will be taking a while longer to make up his mind.

Until he and Roseberry came together, Durham were batting as though they would be beaten within three days. Resuming on 11 without loss, they were soon four wickets down. McCague yorked Hutton and had Morris, who has found a variety of ways of getting out this season, caught at short leg. The ball was played off the face of the bat, indicating that he was unable to counter such bounce as there was.

When Headley bowled Campbell, who was batting as tentatively as he has for much of the season — he has been disconcerted by the uneven bounce he has found in the North East — Durham were 52 for three. They then lost Blenkiron, splendidly held by McCague at gully from a sliced drive off Headley. Some fortune as well as resolve was much needed.

The visitors gained the requisite luck. Roseberry was missed at first slip on seven, Bainbridge at second slip on 42. The second of these was barely a chance, Hooper's fingertips touching a top-edged square cut that went on to the boundary. Such is the difference between following on and looking to make something of the match. By the time the pair were separated, 89 runs had been added.

Bainbridge was finally bowled by a slower ball from Fleming, whom Marsh preferred to his specialist spinner, Stanford, or, for that matter, Hooper, who had Ligertwood taken at short leg with his second ball when he did eventually come on. Such is the way of modern captains, who see slow bowlers as so many pieces of putty to fill gaps in the day. Roseberry remained, unbeaten on 51, after 208 minutes batting on this intrinsically decent pitch. He still has much to do today.

Gatting's gloom intensifies

BY RUPERT COX

THE OVAL (second day of four): Surrey, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 96 runs behind Middlesex

ON THURSDAY afternoon, Middlesex, at 192 for three, were comfortably placed for a substantial first-innings score, but by losing their last seven wickets while adding just 40 — and their last four in 34 balls yesterday morning — they meekly surrendered the advantage to Surrey.

It was all too much for Mike Gatting, who trudged disconsolately around the outfield until Middlesex rallied, with Jamie Hewitt collecting two wickets before rain intervened. The match has lost 88 overs to the elements and unless Surrey can post a substantial total, or the captains can negotiate positively, it will peter out indecisively.

Brendon Julian, Surrey's Australian left-arm seamer, so beset by no-ball trouble on the first day, began Middlesex's rapid demise with the day's opening ball. Johnson, diffidently offering no shot, was palpably leg-before. It left Julian on a hat-trick, having rediscovered his rhythm and control, as he assisted Martin Bicknell in skittling the tail with four for 63.

Bicknell, though, was the pick of the bowlers. His five for 54 were his best figures against Middlesex and a second five-wicket haul of the summer. He consistently swung the ball away from the right-handers, whether he made them play enough is a moot point; surprisingly, he was most effective bowling to the left-handers, dismissing the perplexed Hewitt with an excellent ball.

Middlesex have collected only 17 batting points. The opening partnership of Pooley and Weekes, such a find last year, has yet to get this term and the one batting point secured here had much to do with Surrey's generous donation from extras. They amassed 47, raising their season's tally to 562, with 370 from no-balls alone.

Surrey, in turn, prospered with an untroubled opening stand of 85 before Mark Butcher was well taken at short leg, from the full face of the bat. He is a natural timer of the ball and, with fifties in all of his first-class matches this year, he is in rare form.

Glamorgan quartet set county record

BY GEOFFREY WHEELER

GLAMORGAN'S first innings score of 509 for three declared against Gloucestershire at Bristol yesterday included four individual centuries, a county record.

The first-day century-makers, Stephen James and Hugh Morris, who put on 240 for the first wicket, were quickly dealt with by Mike Smith, during a burst of three wickets in 20 balls, but the Gloucestershire attack, lacking the services of Courtney Walsh because of a stomach upset, proved powerless against the fourth-wicket pair.

Matthew Maynard (145) and Tony Cottey (101) put on 251 in 200 minutes with the captain in particularly punishing form, hitting 21 fours.

Michael Burns, Warwickshire's reserve wicketkeeper, made 81, his highest first-class score, to help the champions to 251 for six against Nottinghamshire and their first two home batting points of the season. They had managed scores of only 192, 164 and 137 in their three previous first innings.

Lancashire's total of 392 against Worcestershire was built around Jason Gallian's innings of 140, his first century since recovering from a broken finger. Vikram Solanki took five wickets with his rarely used off breaks.

Fine seam bowling by the Hampshire captain, John Stephenson, who took six for 48, saw Sussex dismissed for 193 at Arundel, where Jason Laney made 83 as Hampshire reached 190 for three in their second innings to lead by 267.

Lance Klusener emerged as South Africa A's most effective player in the drawn match with Yorkshire, following three for 57 with an unbeaten 46, which helped to steer his side clear of the follow-on.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Tetley's Challenge Series

Somerset v Pakistanis

TAUNTON (final day of three): the Pakistanis beat Somerset by 105 runs

PAKISTANIS: First Innings 300 for 7 dec (Saeed Anwar 130, Asif Mujtaba 54, S Lee 4 for 65)

Second Innings

*Aamir Sohail retired hurt	28
Saeed Anwar c Turner b Batty	80
Shahid Anwar not out	17
Inzamam-ul-Haq not out	51
Extras (lb 1, w 1, nb 16)	18
Total (1 wkt dec)	174

FALL OF WICKET 1-91

BOWLING: van Troost 5-0-35-0; Shine 11-0-64-0; Batty 12.5-1-61-1, Lathwell 6-0-13-0.

SOMERSET: First Innings 199 (P D Bowler 68; Mushtaq Ahmed 5 for 36)

Second Innings

M N Lathwell c Shadab b Mohammad	25
*P D Bowler lbw b Mujtaba	52
M E Trescothick lbw b Aamir	4
K A Parsons c Mujtaba b Mushtaq	9
S C Ecclestone c Shadab b Mushtaq	57
†R J Turner c Saeed b Mushtaq	9
S Lee c Inzamam b Mushtaq	0
J D Batty c Saeed b Mushtaq	27
K J Shine c Aamir b Ata-ur-Rehman	6
A P van Troost not out	5
I E Bishop lbw b Ata-ur-Rehman	2
Extras (b 6, lb 6, nb 2)	14
Total	210

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-53, 2-75, 3-98, 4-98, 5-124, 6-124, 7-188, 8-203, 9-203.

BOWLING: Waqar Younis 3-1-10-0; Mohammad Akram 6-0-34-1, Ata-ur-Rehman 7.5-1-29-2, Mushtaq Ahmed 23-6-72-5; Aamir Sohail 15-2-41-1; Asif Mujtaba 4-0-12-1.

Umpires: V A Holder and D R Shepherd

Tour match

Yorkshire v South Africa A

HEADINGLEY (final day of three): Yorkshire drew with South Africa A

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 331 (C White 77, R J Blakey 64, B Parker 59; P R Adams 4 for 116)

Second Innings

A McGrath not out	50
*D Byas not out	27
Extras (lb 5, nb 8)	13
Total (no wkt dec)	90

BOWLING: Schultz 7-0-35-0; Telemachus 5-2-13-0, Klusener 4-2-5-0; Adams 8-3-23-0; Kallis 5-3-9-0

SOUTH AFRICA A: First Innings

S G Koenig c Byas b Hamilton	11
G F J Liebenberg b Hoggard	29
J H Kallis lbw b Hamilton	0
R Telemachus lbw b Stemp	0
H D Ackerman lbw b Morris	35
*J B Commins c Morris b Wharf	6
H H Gibbs c Byas b Stemp	28
†S J Palframan c Blakey b Stemp	14
L Klusener not out	46
P R Adams c Hamilton b Stemp	27
B N Schultz st Blakey b Stemp	9
Extras (b 7, lb 4, nb 10)	21
Total	226

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-20, 3-21, 4-59, 5-74, 6-92, 7-125, 8-136, 9-194.

BOWLING: Hamilton 15-3-46-2, Hoggard 15-3-41-1; Stemp 25.2-7-89-5, Wharf 7-3-13-1; Morris 5-1-24-1, White 4-1-22-0.

Umpires: B J Meyer and P Willey

Britannic Assurance county championship

Gloucestershire v Glamorgan

BRISTOL (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 496 runs behind Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

S P James b Smith	118
H Morris c Wright b Smith	109
A W Evans c Ball b Smith	4
*M P Maynard not out	145
P A Cottey not out	101
Extras (b 5, lb 5, w 1, nb 22)	33
Total (3 wkts dec)	509

Score at 120 overs: 419-3.

G P Butcher, R D B Croft, †A D Shaw, O T Parkin, N M Kendrick and S L Watkin did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-240, 2-247, 3-258.

BOWLING: Walsh 15-5-33-0; Smith 26-3-113-3; Lewis 26-6-88-0; Alleyne 20-3-78-0; Ball 33-7-111-0; Symonds 12.3-1-62-0; Hancock 4-1-14-0

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

A J Wright not out	0
R J Cunliffe not out	13
Total (no wkt, 6 overs)	13

R I Dawson, T H C Hancock, M W Alleyne, A Symonds, †R C J Williams, M C J Ball, A M Smith, *C A Walsh and J Lewis to bat

BOWLING: Watkin 3-1-4-0, Parkin 3-0-9-0

Bonus points: Gloucestershire 1 Glamorgan 4.

Umpires: G I Burgess and J H Harris

Kent v Durham

MAIDSTONE (second day of four): Durham, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 146 runs behind Kent

KENT: First Innings 363 (C L Hooper 66, N J Llong 64, D P Fulton 64, T R Ward 50; S J E Brown 5 for 76)

DURHAM: First Innings

S L Campbell b Headley	31
S Hutton b McCague	8
J E Morris c Fulton b McCague	4
D A Blenkiron c McCague b Headley	3
*M A Roseberry not out	51
P Bainbridge b Fleming	71
†D G C Ligertwood c Llong b Hooper	11
M M Betts not out	21
Extras (b 1, lb 4, nb 12)	17
Total (6 wkts, 74.3 overs)	217

S J E Brown, D M Cox and J Wood to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-31, 3-52, 4-59, 5-148, 6-168

BOWLING: McCague 19-6-54-2, Headley 19-4-55-2, Preston 14-4-38-0, Fleming 11.2-35-1, Hooper 9-2-24-1, Stanford 2.3-1-6-0

Bonus points: Kent 6 Durham 5

Umpires: N T Plews and R Palmer

Lancashire v Worcestershire

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Lancashire have scored 392 against Worcestershire

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

J E R Gallian c Solanki b Illingworth	140
S P Titchard c Rhodes b Ellis	8
N J Speak c Rhodes b Shenyar	5
N H Fairbrother b Lampitt	46
G D Lloyd st Rhodes b Solanki	59
*M Watkinson c Ellis b Solanki	2
†W K Hegg c Rhodes b Solanki	1
I D Austin c Lampitt b Solanki	47
S Elworthy c Weston b Solanki	45
G Chapple c Lampitt b Illingworth	18
G Keedy not out	0
Extras (b 4, lb 3, w 2, nb 12)	21
Total (115.2 overs)	392

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-37, 3-103, 4-189, 5-191, 6-193, 7-283, 8-371, 9-392

BOWLING: Shenyar 18-4-47-1, Ellis 14-1-58-1; Mendy 5-0-19-0, Lampitt 14-4-43-1, Illingworth 35-12-95-2; Solanki 25.2-3-116-5; Church 4-0-16-0

WORCESTERSHIRE: W P C Weston, T S Curtis, M J Church, *T M Moody, † R Spiring, V S Solanki, S R Lampitt, †S J Rhodes, R K Illingworth, S W K Ellis, A Shenyar

Bonus points: Lancashire 4 Worcestershire 4

Umpires: H D Bird and A A Jones

Leicestershire v Essex

LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 141 runs ahead of Essex

ESSEX: First Innings 162 (G J Parsons 4 for 21, D J Millns 4 for 74)

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

V J Wells not out	150
D L Maddy c Law b Irani	35
B F Smith c Robins b Williams	16
P V Simmons c Gooch b Andrew	4
*J J Whitaker c Law b Andrew	4
A Habib lbw b Irani	1
†P A Nixon b Irani	0
D J Millns not out	51
Extras (lb 10, w 1, nb 30)	41
Total (6 wkts, 86 overs)	304

M T Brimson, G J Parsons and A R K Pierson to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-116, 2-177, 3-195, 4-203, 5-204, 6-204

BOWLING: Cowan 13-2-68-0, Williams 22-4-66-1, Andrew 15-4-39-2, Irani 18-2-70-3, Law 8-2-28-0, Such 5-1-10-0; Grayson 5-0-13-0.

Bonus points: Leicestershire 7 Essex 2.

Umpires: J H Hampshire and J W Holder.

Surrey v Middlesex

THE OVAL (second day of four): Surrey, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 96 runs behind Middlesex

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

P N Weekes b Julian	5
J C Pooley c Brown b M P Bicknell	2
M R Ramprakash c Hussey b M P Bicknell	80
*M W Gatting b Hollioake	52
J D Carr c Brown b Julian	30
†K R Brown c Hollioake b M P Bicknell	4
J P Hewitt b M P Bicknell	19
R L Johnson lbw b Julian	0
R A Fay c Hollioake b M P Bicknell	2
A R C Fraser c Butcher b Julian	1
P C R Tufnell not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 2, nb 42)	47
Total (75.2 overs)	232

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-16, 3-142, 4-192, 5-200, 6-227, 7-227, 8-229, 9-232

BOWLING: M P Bicknell 24-6-54-5, Julian 15.2-4-63-4, Benjamin 20-5-69-0, Hollioake 15-6-30-1, Pearson 1-0-13-0

SURREY: First Innings

D J Bicknell c Pooley b Hewitt	48
M A Butcher c Pooley b Weekes	42
J D Ratcliffe not out	14
N Shahid c Carr b Hewitt	13
A D Brown not out	4
Extras (lb 1, nb 14)	15
Total (3 wkts, 43 overs)	136

*A J Hollioake, B P Julian, †G J Kersey, M P Bicknell, R M Pearson and J E Benjamin to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-86, 2-118, 3-132.

BOWLING: Fraser 6-1-19-0, Fay 14-5-51-0, Johnson 5-0-22-0, Tufnell 7-1-13-0, Weekes 7-3-20-1, Hewitt 4-1-10-2

Bonus points: Surrey 4 Middlesex 2.

Umpires: J D Bond and A G T Whitehead

Sussex v Hampshire

ARUNDEL (third day of four): Hampshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 267 runs ahead of Sussex

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings 270 (M Keech 104, V P Terry 52)

Second Innings

J S Laney lbw b Lewry	83
V P Terry lbw b Lewry	4
K D James not out	60
R A Smith b Lewry	28
M Keech not out	10
Extras (lb 4, w 1)	5
Total (3 wkts)	190

BOWLING: Connor 20.5-5-57-4, Milburn 15-3-43-0, Bovill 6-2-17-0, Stephenson 20-7-48-0, James 7-2-24-0

Bonus points: Sussex 4 Hampshire 6

Umpires: J C Balderstone and A Clarkson

Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Warwickshire have scored 251 for six wickets against Nottinghamshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

*A J Moles c Pollard b Afford	2
N V Knight c Cairns b Bowen	33
†M Burns c Archer b Cairns	81
D P Ostler c Pollard b Cairns	9
T L Penney not out	52
D R Brown c Walker b Cairns	4
S M Pollock b Pick	1
N M K Smith not out	23
Extras (b 2, lb 4, w 1, nb 14)	21
Total (6 wkts, 90 overs)	251

A F Giles, G Welch and G C Small to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-57, 2-67, 3-108, 4-216, 5-220, 6-221

BOWLING: Cairns 24-4-88-3, Evans 25-5-67-0; Pick 16-4-35-1, Bowen 12-3-32-1, Afford 13-4-43-1

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: R T Robinson, P R Pollard, G F Archer, A A Metcalfe, *P Johnson, †L N P Walker, C L Cairns, K P Evans, M N Bowen, R A Pick, J A Afford

Bonus points: Warwickshire 2 Nottinghamshire 2

Umpires: M J Kitchen and K E Palmer

Sussex v Derbyshire

FALL OF WICKETS 1-21, 2-129, 3-173

BOWLING: Giddins 10-2-28-0, Lewry 14-4-53-3, Law 13-2-28-0; Jarvis 4-0-10-0, Salisbury 16-2-56-0; Lenham 5-1-11-0

SUSSEX: First Innings

C W J Athey c Terry b Stephenson	39
T A Radford b Connor	1
*A P Wells c Aymes b Connor	43
K Greenfield c Udal b Stephenson	0
P W Jarvis b Connor	35
N J Lenham c Aymes b Stephenson	14
D R Law c Terry b Stephenson	17
†P Moores c Terry b Stephenson	8
I D K Salisbury not out	19
J D Lewry b Stephenson	0
E S H Giddins b Connor	11
Extras (lb 4, w 2)	6
Total (68.5 overs)	193

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-75, 3-79, 4-87, 5-134, 6-136, 7-155, 8-166, 9-166

BOWLING: Connor 20.5-5-57-4, Milburn 15-3-43-0, Bovill 6-2-17-0, Stephenson 20-7-48-0, James 7-2-24-0

Bonus points: Sussex 4 Hampshire 6

Umpires: J C Balderstone and A Clarkson

Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire

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WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

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D P Ostler c Pollard b Cairns	9
T L Penney not out	52
D R Brown c Walker b Cairns	4
S M Pollock b Pick	1
N M K Smith not out	23
Extras (b 2, lb 4, w 1, nb 14)	21
Total (6 wkts, 90 overs)	251

A F Giles, G Welch and G C Small to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-57, 2-67, 3-108, 4-216, 5-220, 6-221

BOWLING: Cairns 24-4-88-3, Evans 25-5-67-0; Pick 16-4-35-1, Bowen 12-3-32-1, Afford 13-4-43-1

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: R T Robinson, P R Pollard, G F Archer, A A Metcalfe, *P Johnson, †L N P Walker, C L Cairns, K P Evans, M N Bowen, R A Pick, J A Afford

Bonus points: Warwickshire 2 Nottinghamshire 2

Umpires: M J Kitchen and K E Palmer

Khan called up for Derbyshire debut

GUL KHAN makes his first appearance for Derbyshire in the three-day match against South Africa A, starting at Chesterfield today. The right hand batsman, 22, earned a contract with Derbyshire after impressive displays for Oxford University this summer. Khan will play under Chris Adams, who captains Derbyshire for the first time in place of Dean Jones, who is resting. Devon Malcolm, the England fast bowler, is also given a match off.

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CYCLING: ALPINE STAGES PUT ONUS ON SUPPORT RIDERS TO HELP JALABERT AND ZÜLLE CHALLENGE INDURÁIN'S LONG-STANDING SUPREMACY

Time to move mountains on Tour

ANDREW LONGMORE





LAURENT REBOURS

Boogerd, of Holland, celebrates his stage victory in the Tour de France yesterday. He completed the 207-kilometre sixth stage in 5hr 5min 38sec

After the sprinting thrills and the peloton spills of the first week of the 83rd Tour de France, the real battle of the giants — the pink v the white and blue — will start today on the first of the four mountain stages through the Alps.

By the middle of next week, the names of Cyril Saugrain, the 23-year-old hero from the unsung team from the suburbs of Aubervilliers, who won the fourth stage, and Stephane Heulot, the French champion, who took the yellow jersey on that same day, will most likely be mere memories buried beneath the might of ONCE and Banesto, Miguel Indurain, Alex Zülle and Laurent Jalabert.

While the opening stages are measured in seconds, the mountains claim minutes. One draining hour can shatter a Tour. It is here on the wicked slopes of the Col de Madeleine or the Col d'Iseran, on the cruel climb up to Val d'Isère at the end of the 18-mile time-trial tomorrow, where the big men earn their money and those who are not quite ready fade away into the oblivion of the broom-wagon. Here, too, that the workers, the foot soldiers in the ONCE and Banesto teams — both, ironically, backed by Spanish money — dig deep into their reservoirs of unselfish suffering to deliver the rewards to their team leader.

If Indurain stands on the podium in Paris for a record sixth time on July 21, or Zülle or Jalabert inherit the crown, the shattered bodies of their faithful troops will litter the byways of the Alps and the Pyrenees. They will suffer victory or defeat just as acutely.

The opening stages across the plains of Belgium and northern France proved a typical week at the office for the Australian, Neil Stephens, one of the most coveted and respected of cycling's *domestiques*. One day he was leading the peloton in pursuit of a dangerous breakaway, to protect the yellow jersey of Zülle, the next he was tagging along on the back of another break, ever the watchful artisan, ensuring no damage was done to his ONCE team. The following day, he fell and lost time. No matter, he — and his fellows — are not in the race to win. They get their kicks from helping others to win.

"I could be the leader of a small team, win the odd one-day race, maybe come thirtieth in the Tour," Stephens, 32 and on his fifth Tour, explained, "but that doesn't mean a great deal to me, to be honest. With ONCE, I am in the No 1 team in the Tour. I'm highly respected in professional cycling and am highly satisfied with the way things are going. You just have to be realistic about your own ability."

In a sport and on a race where there is little room to hide, where 100 per cent is the average output, Stephens is accorded the honour of being called "Monsieur 100 per cent". A good tactician, a powerful motivator, a shrewd reader of races, but a man humble enough to do his share of the fetching and carrying required of all *domestiques*. Stephens will never be short of work. A good *domestique* is worth his weight in gold, someone, as his manager, Manolo Saiz, says, you do not have to worry about.

Stephens's rewards will only partly be in his wage packet. The relationship between leader and worker is based on simple things, he says, like courtesy and gratitude. "If someone comes past your room at the end of the day when you're feeling wasted and says: 'Hey, bloody good job today', that's all the thanks I need. I'll go out next day and work just as hard for him. Some don't do that, they expect you do it, so halfway up a mountain you feel less inclined to help."

The main problem for ONCE is a severe embarrassment of cycling riches. In Zülle, Jalabert and Melchor Mauri, the team has three potential leaders. Stephens is in an ideal place to assess the differing qualities of the two favourites. "Alex is a stronger time-trialler and he's more calculating. Jala is very aggressive, always looking for the opportunity to attack. People say it must be difficult to have two such strong riders in one team, but I believe they complement each other."

Tragedy has also brought the illustrious ONCE line-up closer together. The week before the Tour, Mariano Rojas, 23, who was due to start his first Tour this year, died from injuries sustained in a car accident.

The team pulled out of the Spanish championships and wore black armbands on the opening stages as a mark of respect. "It hit us all very hard," Stephens said. "He was such a talented young rider, but it's given us one more reason to win this Tour." Monsieur 101 per cent, perhaps.

Dutch delight as conditions take their toll

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MICHAEL BOOGERD, of Holland, won the 207-kilometre sixth stage of the Tour de France from Arc-et-Senans to Aix-les-Bains in appalling weather conditions yesterday. Boogerd, a double national champion in the team time-trial and a member of Rabobank, the new Dutch team, escaped in driving rain with just two kilometres remaining and with Melchor Mauri, a Spaniard, in hot pursuit. Mauri, a member of the impressive ONCE team, eventually finished seventeenth, just ahead of Chris Boardman, of Great Britain.

Stephane Heulot retained the overall leader's yellow jersey, but the French national champion was unhappy at the finish. "The conditions were atrocious. I am suffering from tendinitis in the knee, which I hope will clear up," he said.

Laurent Jalabert, attempting to become the first French winner of the Tour since Bernard Hinault in 1985, will have been encouraged by the performance of his ONCE team-mates. Led by Mauri and Neil Stephens, from Australia, they helped Jalabert to win a six-second bonus sprint 25 kilometres from the finish. The bonus pushed Jalabert into fourth place in the overall standings, 11sec ahead of Miguel Indurain, the five-times winner, from Spain.

Indurain's Banesto team struggled yesterday. Only three of his team-mates were able to stay with a leading group of 63 riders. The peloton, buffeted by the terrible conditions, split into three groups on the third-category climb of de Senoy. Boardman, a member of the GAN team, did well to stay in the leading group and finished in eighteenth place. The Briton lies tenth overall, 4min 22sec off the lead.

Lance Armstrong, the 1993 world road race champion, was one of several riders to retire. Armstrong, of the United States, who was involved in a fight with Gilles Bouvard, of France, during the fifth stage on Thursday, pulled out complaining of sickness.

Twice a stage-winner, Armstrong, 24, was riding in his final Tour for Motorola, who are withdrawing their sponsorship at the end of the season. "It's a terrible feeling when one has to retire, but I am young and there is at least the Atlanta Olympics to aim for," he said.

Eddy Seigneur, the 1995 French champion, also retired yesterday. It was the second successive year that he has pulled out early. Seigneur, 27, a team-mate of Boardman and Heulot, retired with his compatriot Cyril Robin, who was ninth in the Tour of Italy. Cyril Saugrain, winner of the fourth stage, was another to retire after he was dropped by the pack on the second-category climb up Croix de la Serra.

The Tour medical staff predicted that there would be many more retirements over the next few days. "The weather is so atrocious that the riders will feel every pain that much more and, despite their courage, it will be very hard for them to pull through the mountains," a doctor said. Race organisers said that they could not recall such awful conditions.

TOUR DETAILS

SIXTH STAGE (207km Arc-et-Senan to Aix-les-Bains): 1, M Boogerd (Holl, Rabobank) 5hr 5min 38sec; 2, E Zabel (Ger, Deutsche Telekom) at 1sec; 3, L Jalabert (Fr, ONCE); 4, A Tchmil (Ukr, Lotto); 5, F Baldato (It, MG Technogym); 6, J Skibby (Den, TVM); 7, A Tafi (It, Mapei); 8, R Sorensen (Den, Rabobank); 9, P Formanchi (It, SAECO); 10, Z Spruch (Pol, Panaria); 11, B Boscardin (It, Forsman); 12, J Museeuw (Bel, Mapei); 13, B Hamburger (Den, TVM); 14, P Richard (Switz, MG Technogym); 15, C Moreau (Fr, Festina); 16, H D Zabala (Sp, ONCE); 17, M Mauri (Sp, ONCE); 18, C Boardman (GB, GAN); 19, E Dekker (Holl, Rabobank); 20, R Virenque (Fr, Festina) all same time; British: 57, M Scandri (GB, Motorola) 12sec behind. Overall standings (after six stages): 1, S Heulot (Fr, GAN) 34hr 55min 27sec; 2, M Piccoli (It, Brescialat) at 20sec; 3, A Zülle (Switz, ONCE) at 4min 5sec; 4, Jalabert 4'06; 5, Y Berzin (Russ, Gewiss) 4'08; 6, A Olano (Sp, Mapei) 4'12; 7, B Riis (Den, Deutsche Telekom) 4'16; 8, M Indurain (Sp, Banesto) 4'17; 9, R Jaermann (Switz, MG Technogym) 4'20; 10, Boardman 4'22; 11, Mauri 4'24; 12, T Romanger (Switz, Mapei) same time; 13, Skibby 4'35; 14, Tchmil 4'36; 15, J Ullrich (Ger, Deutsche Telekom) 4'38; 16, Dekker 4'41; 17, Sorensen 4'42; 18, Virenque 4'43; 19, P Savoldelli (It, Riastalto) 4'45; 20, Baldato same time; British: 57, Scandri 5'23.
TODAY: Seventh stage: Chambéry to Les Arcs (126km). Tomorrow: Eighth stage: Bourg-Saint-Maurice to Val d'Isère (18.6km, time-trial)

BASEBALL

Making a wild pitch for the British youth market

Nick Szczepanik on an American sport with a base in London

Ken Griffey Jr, of the Seattle Mariners, can sleep easy. On the evidence of my visit to the Entenmann's Major League Baseball Festival, held in Covent Garden, London, I am highly unlikely to threaten his reputation as baseball's No 1 all-round player.

The four-day event, which goes on until tomorrow, gives visitors an opportunity to try their hand at pitching and hitting, as well as watching on-screen highlights. In the batting cages, pitching machines deliver a range of fast balls, curve balls, sliders and the rest. "Hitting a fast-moving baseball, a lot of people feel, is the hardest thing to do in sport," Jim Lefebvre, the former manager of the Mariners and the Chicago Cubs, who is in attendance, said. Here, the balls are a lightweight plastic design. For pitching practice, however, you hurl the genuine article at target zones; an electronic voice comes back at you with "Wild pitch!", "Take a walk!" or "Steee-rike!".

Major League baseball has opened a London office and is investing an estimated $30,000 (about £19,000) a time to take the roadshow to cities around the world. "Baseball is trying to introduce itself to England," Lefebvre said. "Thanks to the Olympics, it's becoming a world sport and we're taking the message to everyone. One problem in Europe is the weather."

The weather, namely a gusty wind, was definitely assisting all those curve balls I did not hit and may have kept some potential visitors away; or perhaps it was Wimbledon. It may, of course, have been the fact that baseball does not loom very large in the national psyche because one seldom sees it on television.

The Major Leagues have been accused of pricing themselves out of our couch-potato market, but that is going to change. Sky Television, an associate company of News International, which owns The Times, will show next week's All-Star game in Philadelphia, and then there will be a weekly hour-long game-of-the-week package, followed by the play-offs and World Series. "We didn't even talk about money," Clive Russell, the Major Leagues' director of European operations, said. "We want to get kids interested, so we didn't want live games at 3am. Until we had the right package, we weren't going to do anything."

Baseball has also gone into British schools with a training package called "Pitch, Hit and Run". Youth development is doubly important to the sport. Demographically, baseball may be in trouble at home. A recent survey suggested that while 25 to 40-year-olds favour basketball and American football is the sport of choice for those in the 40-50 age range, the average baseball supporter is likely to be over 50.

They are probably right to try to get Britain interested through youth. After all, according to the survey, the No 1 sport for the under-25s in the United States is soccer.

BOWLS

Scotland set standard as others flag

SCOTLAND'S unmistakeable yellow flag, with red lion rampant, has fluttered all week from the ramparts of Carrickfergus Castle, in Co Antrim — though nobody in the town seems to know why (David Rhys Jones writes).

It must have been an omen: Scotland, a proud bowling nation, bridged a 16-year gap and dominated the home international series, split uncomfortably between twin venues at Carrickfergus and the Ulster Transport bowls club in Jordanstown.

Showing the fighting spirit that used to be their trademark, the Scots came back from early deficits to beat Wales, England and Ireland, then dealt imperiously with the Channel Islands on Thursday, leaving the other four countries to squabble over the minor positions yesterday.

For good measure, the Scots also went home bearing the pairs, triples and junior singles trophies, while Ireland, who finished second in the series after beating England yesterday, took the singles — through Noel Graham, and the fours.

ONLY IN TOMORROW'S
NEWS OF THE WORLD
ITALIAN CLUBS SWOOP FOR TWO ENGLAND SOCCER HEROES

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

CRICKET

Third Cornhill Test match
11.0, third day of five, 90 overs minimum
TRENT BRIDGE: England v India

Tetley's Challenge Series
11.0, first day of three
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Pakistanis

Tour match
11.0, first day of three
CHESTERFIELD: Derbyshire v South Africa A

Britannic Assurance
county championship
11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Glamorgan
MAIDSTONE: Kent v Durham
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Worcestershire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Essex
THE OVAL: Surrey v Middlesex
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire
11.0, final day of four, 96 overs minimum
ARUNDEL: Sussex v Hampshire
SECOND WOMEN'S TEST MATCH: Worcester (final day of four): England v New Zealand

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League
London Broncos v Sheffield Eagles (6.0)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Middleton Cup (2.0): Huntingdonshire v Warwickshire (at Somersham Town); Isle of Wight v Middlesex (at Shanklyn); Kent v Buckinghamshire (at Old Colleanis); Norfolk v Bedfordshire (at Wymondham Dell); Northamptonshire v Essex (at Wellingboro); Nottinghamshire v Northumberland (at Nottingham); Oxfordshire v Berkshire (at South Oxford); Sussex v Surrey (at Preston); Wiltshire v Somerset (at Wootton Bassett)
BOXING: World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight championship: Steve Collins (Dublin, holder) v Nigel Benn (Ilford); World Boxing Council super-middleweight championship: Thulane "Sugar Boy" Malinga (SA, holder) v Vincenzo Nardiello (It); International Boxing Federation inter-continental and Commonwealth light-middleweight championships: Steve Foster (Salford, IBF) v Chris Pyatt (Leicester, Commonwealth); WBO inter-continental light-heavyweight championship (vacant): Maurice Core (Manchester) v Mark Prince (Tottenham) (at Nynex Arena, Manchester).
CYCLING: National track championships (Leicester, 2.0); Cheltenham ten miles (Gossington, 2.0).
GOLF: Murphy's Irish Open (Druids Glen, Co Wicklow)
LACROSSE: Women's International: England v United States (Sheffield).
ROWING: Henley Royal Regatta.
SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Eastbourne v Coventry (7.30); Swindon v Scottish Monarchs (7.30).
TENNIS: All England championships (at Wimbledon)

Tomorrow

CRICKET

Tetley's Challenge Series
11.0, second day of three
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Pakistanis

Tour match
11.0, second day of three
CHESTERFIELD: Derbyshire v South Africa A

AXA Equity & Law League
2.0, 40 overs
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Glamorgan
MAIDSTONE: Kent v Durham
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Worcestershire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Essex
THE OVAL: Surrey v Middlesex
ARUNDEL: Sussex v Hampshire
2.10, 40 overs
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of two): Henlow: Bedfordshire v Northumberland. Reading School: Berkshire v Cornwall; Hereford City: Herefordshire v Devon; Lincoln Lindum: Lincolnshire v Cambridgeshire; Pontypridd: Wales v Shropshire; South Wiltshire CC: Wiltshire v Oxfordshire

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
Stones Super League
Halifax Blue Sox v Warrington (6.0)
Leeds v Oldham Bears
Workington v Paris Saint-Germain (6.0)

First division
Batley Bulldogs v Rochdale (5.30)
Featherstone v Widnes (3.30)
Hull v Dewsbury (6.0)
Keighley Cougars v Huddersfield Giants (3.30)
Salford Reds v Whitehaven

Second division
Carlisle v York (6.0)
Chorley Magpies v Bramley (6.0)
Doncaster Dragons v Swinton Lions
Leigh Centurions v Hunslet Hawks
Prescot Panthers v Hull KR
South Wales v Barrow (at Talbot Athletic Ground, 6.0)

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: Rutland 100 miles (Ranby, 6.0am), Bramley Wheelers 50 miles (Tadcaster, 6.0am)
GOLF: Murphy's Irish Open (Druids Glen, Co Wicklow)
ROWING: Henley Royal Regatta.
SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Oxford v Scottish Monarchs (6.30) Conference League: Buxton v Sheffield (3.0), Mildenhall v Exeter (3.30). Open: Linlithgow (2.30)
TENNIS: All England championships (at Wimbledon)

Tenacious Benn fired up to prove title point


Benn: displayed courage

NIGEL BENN returns tonight to prove wrong those who wrote him off as "finished" after his defeat by Thulane Malinga, of South Africa, in March. Benn challenges Steve Collins, the tough World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion, from Ireland, at the Nynex Arena in Manchester.

Collins, who won his belt by beating Chris Eubank, is the favourite, but Benn, who showed remarkable courage in coming back from two humiliating defeats — by Michael Watson and Eubank — to lift the World Boxing Council title and be recognised as one of the great middleweights, is more than capable of a third successful return. He is at his most dangerous when he has something to prove.

If he is beaten for the second time in a row, it could mean his retirement, but as Benn said before this latest contest: "I've had only three hard fights in my life — against Eubank, McClellan and Malinga. I'm ready to go again with Collins. The last thing I want is to go out a loser."

It is a fascinating contest between two aggressive boxers. Collins wears opponents down with his non-stop aggression while Benn can end a contest with one punch. The outcome will depend on how much the defeat by Malinga took out of Benn.

Some experts believe that Benn lost the bout against Malinga because, after eight years of campaigning, the ferocious battle with

Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent, believes a former champion is capable of successful return

Gerald McClellan speeded up a decline and he had little to give against the South African. Certainly, being 32, signs of battle weariness could have crept into that contest, but the more likely cause was that Malinga's style was wrong for Benn.

Benn had always had trouble with boxers and more so with big men who can box, such as Watson, Sanderline Williams, Lenzie Morgan and Mauro Galvano. Malinga was just such a man. After coming out of the shortest retirement in the history of boxing — one night — Benn said: "I left it in the gym. I need someone who is going to bring out the fear in me and Collins is a good fighter. He did something I couldn't do, beat Eubank twice. Collins is right up my street. He ain't got to look for me and I ain't got to look for him."

The Collins of old, who troubled men such as Mike McCallum and Reggie Johnson, would almost certainly have posed serious problems for Benn, but the champion, too, has shown signs of declining since 1994.

Collins did not impress in his first bout with Eubank, which was a rush-and-hold affair. He was marginally better in the second encounter with Eubank, but in his bout with Cornelius Carr, a novice by comparison, Collins gave the distinct impression that the old snap was no longer there. He seemed to be flailing about in a bath of treacle, so slow were his reactions.

The Irishman is a strategist and is certain to have studied Benn's style. It is most unlikely that Collins will try to punch it out with Benn. It would not be surprising if the Irishman resorts to spoiling tactics to put Benn off his stride in the early rounds and try to stop him later in the contest when Benn is at his most vulnerable.

If Benn can summon up even 50 per cent of the courage, energy and determination he showed in the bout with McClellan, he should have too much for Collins. The Irishman is not difficult to hit and Eubank showed that he can be floored. Benn could stop Collins in the middle rounds.

The show has an excellent programme, with two other title bouts on the undercard. Malinga defends his title against Vincenzo Nardiello, of Italy, and the light middleweight double title bout between Steve Foster, of Salford, who holds the International Boxing Federation inter-continental title, and Chris Pyatt, of Leicester, who is the Commonwealth champion, looks like being a cracker.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Switch to summer brings mixed results at turnstiles

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

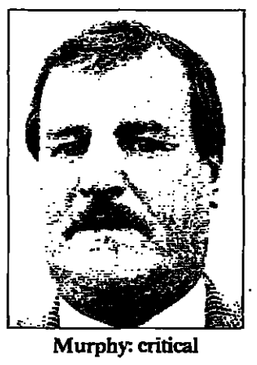
ALEX MURPHY was unsparing in his criticism this week of summer rugby league. "Nobody should be afraid to alter course," he wrote in a newspaper column. "I bet the captain of the *Titanic* would have changed his route if he knew he was steaming towards an iceberg."

At Warrington, Murphy's club, and at several others, the sport's emergence from winter darkness into the summer light has hardly converted the masses. Constantly changing kick-off times and the squad number system do not help. However, talk of impending disaster is premature, given the overall modest improvements in crowds two-thirds of the way through the first Super League season.

Clubs like Warrington, which simply imagined the warmer weather would generate more activity at the turnstiles, have had a rude awakening. At Bradford Bulls, the single-minded pursuit of spectators has brought a doubling of crowds to an average of 9,000. Odsal, an ice box in winter, is where the cool box has become *de rigueur*.

Peter Deakin, Bradford's irrepressible marketing executive, has skilfully sold the Bulls to the public and local businesses. The number of families attending shows the club has tapped into a new audience. "It has been aggressive selling policy, but one that involved eight months of planning," he said.

So why, for instance, are Wiganers lounging in their gardens on match days and Bradfordians, usually an apathetic lot, holding barbecues on the Odsal car parks? While Bradford admitted their recent mistake in publicly tearing up a Warrington shirt before a game, otherwise the pre-match entertainment is slick.


Murphy: critical

Reaching Wembley in the Challenge Cup final was an unexpected bonus, but it properly marked the arrival of the Bulls and the burial of their old "Northern" tag. Halifax crave public acceptance of their unfathomable new name — the Blue Sox. Crowds there are up 15 per cent on the centenary season, but marginally down on the last full 1994-95 winter programme.

Apathy still reigns in other towns and the ground improvements deemed an essential part of the new era are also slow in arriving. Toilets at many grounds are an affront, while the sunshine serves to highlight that Oldham's Watersheddings ground is fit only for the wrecking ball. Castleford, Halifax and Workington are almost as bad.

The normal 14,000 winter crowd at Wigan has been achieved only twice in the Super League, while gates at Leeds, traditionally the second-best attended club, are down a fifth on the last winter season — a vote on the team as much as summer rugby. What summer rugby is apparently bringing is a shift of a basic 50,000 supporters away from some the traditional big clubs.

John Savage, chairman of the Rugby League Supporters' Association, said: "It's too early to say whether summer is a success or not. There's no doubting its popularity at Bradford, where some older supporters have been put off but younger ones have taken their places in greater numbers. Promotion, better marketing and improvements to facilities are lessons to be learned."

What rugby league and its followers need, but are unlikely to get, is a period of stability. Clubs have realised late that a 12-team Super League does not pay the bills. For South Wales to be "fast-tracked" in next year, the others must hand over five per cent of their already-budgeted £900,000 annual allocation from Super League. The fact that London and Sheffield are experiencing their best attendances gives weight to the pro-revolutionary argument about the game being transplanted nationally into areas of large population. Neither average attendance, however, is good enough for the sport to get carried away.

Summer rugby — fast and furious entertainment — is proving great value on mud-free pitches. Up against Euro 96, Test matches, Wimbledon, the Olympic Games and summer holidays, too many people have yet to see it.

AVERAGE CROWD ATTENDANCES

Club	1994-5	* 1995-6	1996 change (94-96)
London Broncos	814	2,386	5,288	+549.6%
Sheffield Eagles	2,661	3,106	4,667	+75.4%
Bradford Bulls	5,654	4,593	8,843	+56.5%
St Helens	7,467	7,143	9,503	+27.2%
Oldham Bears	3,889	3,187	3,891	+0.01%
Castleford Tigers	5,090	4,072	4,999	-1.8%
Halifax Blue Sox	5,600	4,657	5,308	-5.2%
Warrington	5,380	4,922	5,028	-6.6%
Wigan	14,195	11,947	11,596	-18.3%
Leeds	12,516	11,594	9,385	-25%
Workington	3,776	3,061	2,547	-32.5%
Paris Saint-Germain	—	—	9,078	n/a

* 1995-6 was the shortened August-January centenary season
Excluding last night's matches at Bradford and Wigan

A TIMES READER OFFER AND COMPETITION

Take a friend to a cricket match for 10p

PLUS win tickets to see Englandv Pakistan

The Times, in association with the TCCB, is offering readers the chance to watch some great county cricket and take a friend along for just 10p — the price of *The Times* every Monday throughout the summer.

You can choose from to spend a day at any one of 78 Britannic Assurance County championship matches listed in *The Times* this week.

We are also offering readers another chance to win a pair of tickets to one day of the England v Pakistan Cornhill Test Match at Lord's which starts on July 25. Our winner will also get a cricket hat signed by the England team, an England shirt, sweatshirt and baseball cap. Call 0891 771 283 with your answer to this question:

Who captained Pakistan on their 1992 England tour?

a) Imran Khan b) Javed Miandah c) Wasim Akram

The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight.

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times.

CRICKET FOR 10P APPLICATION FORM

Mr/Mrs/Other ..... First Name(s) .....

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This voucher, with four Times/Britannic Assurance County Championship tokens attached, entitles the bearer to buy one ticket for 10p, when buying one full adult price ticket for any one day of the Britannic Assurance County Championship matches — as listed in *The Times*.
The offer is valid from Wednesday July 17 to Monday September 23, 1996, inclusive and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Tickets are subject to availability. Full terms and conditions of this offer were published in *The Times* on July 1, 1996.

Britannic Assurance Championship

THE TIMES TOKEN SIX


Harris, the Wales and Warrington stand-off half, will undergo a fitness test before facing Halifax. Photograph: Mike Brett

Broncos aim to buck losing trend

Christopher Irvine says the London team are facing a test of character

Since drawing at Wigan four weeks ago, the London Broncos have followed their best results in the Stones Super League with two of their most disappointing, being beaten by the Halifax Blue Sox and Bradford Bulls at home.

London face Sheffield Eagles tonight at The Valley, Charlton, knowing that another defeat would probably end their chances of finishing in the top four and securing a place in the play-offs — the realistic extent of their ambitions for the season.

A compromise of their attacking inclination for more defensive fortitude has only served to damage both causes. Leo Dynevor spurred the Broncos into action against Bradford, even though his two tries were too late to spare them defeat, so his replacement of Kevin Langer at scrum half is of little surprise.

Tony Martin, 17, a full back from Brisbane, who has impressed in the Academy team, makes his debut, which allows Greg Barwick to switch into the centre and Tulsen Tollett to resume the Broncos' most effective half-back partnership, alongside Dynevor.

After Terry Matterson, the London captain, suffered a nasty throat injury in the Bradford match, Peter Gill takes over at loose forward. Ikram Butt has withdrawn with a groin strain and John Minto gets another chance on the wing.

Sheffield have won on their past three visits to London and can overtake the Broncos, moving into fifth place in the table if they manage a repeat of their 34-18 win in April. John Lawless, the England hooker, is still suffering from a back injury and Richard Chapman continues in his place. David Gamson and Waisale Sovatabua return in the backs.

Paul Loughlin, the Bradford centre, successfully appealed yesterday against a two-match ban by the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee — the first of his long career — for a high tackle at London and was available for the visit last night by St Helens and the home game against Wigan next Friday.

Warrington are without Paul Cullen, who was suspended for two matches for a reckless challenge on Jason Robinson, of Wigan, for the trip to Halifax. Iestyn Harris, the Wales stand-off half, who has a knee problem, Jon Roper (groin), Paul Sculthorpe (wrist) and Mark Jones (knee) will undergo late checks.

Oldham, who play at Leeds tomorrow, were unable train yesterday because of the effects of a stomach bug. Jim Quinn, the club chairman, said: "The problem appears to have been caused by drinking water from a contaminated container and two-thirds of the players are affected." Leeds will give late fitness tests to Kevin Iro and Francis Cummins, but both are doubtful.

Salford, the first division leaders, are unchanged for the visit of Whitehaven. Keighley Cougars and Huddersfield, placed second and third respectively, are in opposition at Cougar Park.

Prescot Panthers, the second division's bottom club, have dismissed Jim Crellin as coach after six months. Crellin had accused the board of failing to provide funding.

Cumbrian outpost stalked by fears of relegation

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE attendance figure could be almost as important as the result at Derwent Park, Workington, scene of the Super League relegation duel with Paris Saint-Germain tomorrow. Twice in this inaugural season, it has ducked below 2,000 and the French side's away support can fit into a small gite.

A win would not guarantee either team a permanent escape from the one relegation place, but would go a long way towards restoring confidence. Workington's need is the more urgent, for defeat would leave them four points adrift of Paris, who number the Cumbrian side as one of the two teams they have beaten in an otherwise sorry introductory season.

The shrinking crowds at Workington merely reflect a situation as dire as the financial one that nearly scuppered the team's involvement in the Super League before it began. Apart from drawing with Halifax at home and sneaking a win at the Oldham Bears, it has been a trail of failure.

The promising start by Paris is fast becoming a distant memory. They have lost on their past ten outings, yet, in running Warrington close and keeping Oldham's score within limits last week, a new-look side displayed some of the defensive backbone John Kear, the Rugby Football League coaching executive, is seeking to instil.

Kear has been seconded to Paris to prevent them going down. He has at his disposal five Australians — Phil Shead, Ian Russell, Dion Bird, John Boslem and George Wilson — the sort of cavalry a battered Workington squad could do with.

The home side welcome back Mark Johnson, Paul Penrice and Lafaele Filipo from injury and Ross O'Reilly, the coach, remains optimistic. "Paris have had an influx of new players, but that could work for us," he said. "All the changes they've made mean that they haven't had the time to build team cohesion."

With the London Broncos, Wigan, St Helens and the Bradford Bulls yet to visit them and Leeds, the Halifax Blue Sox and Castleford to play away, Paris see beating Workington as their best and perhaps only route to salvation. "We will have to treat the match like a cup final," Patrick Entat, their scrum half, said.

Leeds, in tenth place, renew acquaintance with Oldham, easy winners over them three months ago, in pursuit of only a third home win.

☐ Dean Hall, the Bramley prop, lost his appeal against a 15-month ban. He was sent off for elbowing against Hunslet last month.

RUGBY UNION: CHAMPIONS SECURE FUNDING FOR WAGE BILL OF £1.5 MILLION

Bath acquire extra financial muscle

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE predators hovering over Bath's talented playing squad will have their hopes dashed next Friday when England's league and cup champions announce details of a £5 million investment and restructuring of the club.

The cash injection, which, under a confidentiality clause, Bath cannot confirm will come from Andrew Brownsword, will go a long way to ensuring that no more players follow Ben Clarke to Richmond or any other newly-enriched club.

Brownsword, 48, is a greeting-card millionaire who is based in the city and Bath officials have thrashed out details over the past four months of an agreement that will also benefit shareholders in the club. Those details will be outlined at the annual meeting on July 18, but Bath's membership will be relieved that their playing resources will be no further depleted, after a decade of almost undiluted success.

Apart from Clarke, only two other players, the props Darren Crompton and Chris Clark — neither first-team regulars — have left, also for Richmond. Such leading figures as Phil de Glanville and Jeremy Guscott are understood to be committed to the club.

"Let's just say that we expect to be able to announce an understanding which will give Bath the opportunity for a fruitful future," Richard Mawdit, the chairman, said yesterday. It will also fund a wage bill estimated around £1.5 million per annum in the new professional era, considerably bigger than many leading clubs because of the high profile of so many Bath players.


Brownsword: millionaire

Both Guscott and Clarke are named in a world XV to play a French XV in Agen today in a match to celebrate the retirement from international rugby of Philippe Sella, after a world-record 111 appearances. Sella will partner England's Will Carling in midfield and will have Michael Lynagh, who will be a colleague with Saracens next season, as his stand-off half.

The French team, recently returned from Buenos Aires after their 2-0 series win over Argentina, will be led by Philippe Saint-André and includes two recent transfers to English rugby in Laurent Cabannes and Laurent Benézech, both bound for Harlequins.

NatWest Old England XI

Sunday 7th July 2.00pm
Lords and Commons Cricket Club
v
The NatWest Old England XI
At Vincent Square, Westminster, London, SW1

Former Test and County players include:
Jim Parks, John Snow, John Lever, Derek Underwood, Derek Randall
Admission free. Programme price £2.

For further details call 0171 912 0342

Funds raised from programme sales will go to the United Cricket Board of South Africa Development Programme. National Westminster Bank will donate £1 per run scored by the NatWest Old England XI to the Primary Club. Registered Charity No. 285285.

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ATHLETICS

Braithwaite struggles to stay with Americans

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN OSLO

IN THE absence of Linford Christie, who withdrew citing an injury, Darren Braithwaite, the Great Britain No 2 100 metres runner, was left to take on the Americans here in the Bislett Games last night. On a wet evening and into a headwind, Dennis Mitchell, the United States champion, coped with the elements the best, winning in 10.10sec, while Braithwaite could manage only fourth place.

The Briton got away to a reasonable start, but, in lane five, to Mitchell's right, he soon looked to be struggling. Braithwaite, who was the silver medal-winner at the world indoor championships over 60 metres last year, picked up well during the middle part of the race, but could not make up the lost ground on Mitchell or his countrymen.

Tim Harden was second in 10.11sec, Jeff Laynes third in 10.20sec, Braithwaite following in 10.27sec, having run 10.13sec this season. However, Braithwaite did finish ahead of Jeff Williams, who will join Michael Johnson in the United States team for the 200 metres at the Olympic Games in Atlanta next month.



Christie, who withdrew from this meeting after his fifth place in Lausanne on Wednesday, informing the organisers that he was having trouble with a hamstring, has now entered for the grand prix meeting in Nice next Wednesday.

Debbie Marti, Britain's No 1 woman high jumper, had a chance to measure her prospects for Atlanta against two past Olympic medal-winners, Stefka Kostadinova, who took the silver for Bulgaria in Seoul in 1988, and Alina Astafei, who was runner-up for Romania in Barcelona in 1992. However, Marti was unable to bring the form to the Bislett Stadium that she has shown this season.

It was hardly consolation for Marti, who failed three times at 1.85 metres, that the cold and windy conditions ensured that nobody was able to jump to standard. Kostadinova, who won the world title in Gothenburg last year, seven months after giving birth to a son, was five centimetres down on her season's best, with 1.98 metres. Astafei, who gained German citizenship last year, was two centimetres lower than her best of the season.

Both women cleared 1.98 metres, but Kostadinova won on countback, Astafei having needed a second attempt at that height. Marti could only watch in frustration, despite having improved to 1.94 metres this year. It is a height she has achieved twice and is only one centimetre lower than the British record, set by Diana Davies in 1982.

A change of coaches, Marti said, had done her good. She has moved from Bruce Longden to Mike Holmes, who trains Steve Smith, the 1993 world championship high jump bronze medal-winner. Under Holmes, Marti's training routine has changed, with an emphasis on weights. She has also altered her run-up. "Instead of coming in smooth, I now have a tight curve at the end," she said. "I was just drifting over the bar. Now I am hitting an arch."

A secretary for Reigate and Banstead council, Marti spent six weeks before Christmas in Liverpool traing with Holmes. "I put in a lot of hard work. I was concentrating on training with no distractions."

Marti qualified for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, but was not selected because, at 16, she was considered too young. She was ninth in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, qualifying with 1.92 metres but managing only 1.91 metres in the final. "I think I will have to jump 1.95 metres to get into the Olympic final," she said. "I am confident 1.96 metres is there for me this season."

"It was too cold for a top performance," Ilke Wyludda, Germany's discus world silver medal-winner in Gothenburg, said. She was two metres down on her best of the season, winning with 66.66 metres. The wind was up, too. In the 100 metres hurdles, Lyudmila Enquist, from Sweden, won in 12.48sec with a 3.1 metres per second following wind.

Lars Riedel, from Germany, showed scant concern for the weather, setting a meeting record of 69.12 metres in the discus. The action picked up when Fernando Ribeiro, the 10,000 metres world champion from Portugal, ran the fastest 5,000 metres in the world this year, 14min 41.07sec. Ribeiro won only after a close finish with Gabriela Szabo, Romania's former world indoor 3,000 metres champion. As they kicked together down the finishing straight, Szaba finally had to give way, recording 14min 41.12sec, both women finishing within five seconds of Ribeiro's world record.

Kenya's medal chase marred by in-fighting

FEUDING among Kenyan athletes and officials is threatening to spill over into preparations for the Olympic Games in Atlanta this month.

On Wednesday, Kip Keino, the 1968 Olympic 1,500 metres champion and now the Kenyan *chef de mission* for Atlanta, dismissed the Olympic team manager, David Okeyo, and his deputy, Ernest Kaitany. Athletes' involvement on the lucrative international circuit has led to friction at home and Keino had accused the pair of "colluding with foreign agents to send athletes to Europe".

Yesterday, however, the pair were dispatched to Britain on the orders of the Culture and Social Services Ministry charged with ensuring that London-based athletes link up with the rest of the Olympic team in Mississippi by Monday. Those athletes competing in the grand prix event at Crystal Palace on July 12 would be given until July 14 to reach the United States.

Francis Owour, a ministry official, said: "The morale of the athletes is paramount and must remain high throughout the games."

JULIAN HERBERT



Andreas Nader and Hermann Bauer, the Austrian Olympic pair and now favourites for the Silver Goblets, beat the Japanese boat at Henley

Polished finish for Diamond scullers

BY MIKE ROSEWELL ROWING CORRESPONDENT

CONDITIONS eased at Henley yesterday and competitors responded by producing some nail-biting contests. James Martinez, of the United States, and Merlin Vervoorn, of Holland, raced to a rare one-foot decision in the Diamond Sculls. Martinez, a 1995 world lightweight finalist, was called back after a false start, but, once the race got going, there was never daylight between the two, with the lead changing twice before the line.

The contest produced the fastest time of the four Diamonds quarter-finals, and Vervoorn now faces Paul Reedy, of Australia, who had to keep the rate at 35, the same as his age, to beat Simon Goodbrand, Britain's Under-23 sculler. Wade Hall-Craggs, Britain's sole surviving sculler in the Diamonds, did a workmanlike job in beating Christian Stofer, of Switzerland. He faces a higher-ranked Swiss, Andrew Bihrer, today.

There was an agonising five-minute wait before the judges could decide the outcome of the Silver Goblets pairs race between Martin Cross and Richard Stanhope, of Britain, and Benedikt Schmidt and Camille Codoni, of Switzerland. After changes in the lead, the Swiss were ahead approaching the finish, until the Britons mounted a surge reminiscent of their international showings. Cross thought they had won it. The photo said they had failed by one foot.

Two other past British internationals, Jon Singfield and Adrian Cassidy, remain in the Goblets frame, but they had to come from behind to beat the Irish. David Layton and Keith Weller, two club rowers, are also still there, causing an upset by rowing through the selected New Zealanders, Andrew Batt and Murdoch Dryden.

That narrow defeat of Cross and Stanhope prevented history from being made, however. Rachel Stanhope, Richard's wife, had earlier beaten her second selected opponent in the women's sculls to book an appearance today — and no husband and wife have ever managed a double showing on the Saturday. Tish Reid, an Olympic sculler for Britain in 1992, was her victim yesterday and Stanhope again came from behind to win. "I decided to minimise the damage until halfway, and then push." She now faces Maria Brandin, of Sweden, the world champion.

The first rounds of The Queen Mother's Cup quads produced some fine racing and the promise of more to come. The non-selected German crew from Ratzeburg won and could cause some upsets in the top half of the draw, where Imperial College-Leander, the British under-23 crew, also looked smooth. Nottingham County, selected in the bottom half, had to come from behind to beat the Belgians.

The likelihood of the Visitors' Fours and Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup eights trophies staying in British hands received a jolt. The Dutch four from Argo was eye-catching in beating the selected London University in the Visitors', and Hampton, on form Britain's top school in the Princess Elizabeth, were unceremoniously trounced by Brentwood College, Canada.

The Canadians, with five probable junior internationals, won by 3½ lengths. Martin Orviss, Hampton's coach, had no excuses, an ominous sign for other British schools. Canford, who edged out Bedford, face the Canadians. St Paul's, who race St Edward's in the other semi-final today, had an unexpectedly easy day yesterday, when Markus Baker, the four man of King's, Chester, was forced to stop with a back injury two minutes into a close race.

The Ladies' Challenge Plate eights is boiling up nicely. Both Boston, of the United States, the American lightweights, and Nottingham County-London, their British counterparts, won yesterday, but the heavier Leander and Goldie crews produced the two fastest times of the day in eliminating the Germans from Hansa, and the Americans, from Princeton.

Eight Nottingham Boat Club men, doubling up in the Wyfold Fours and the Thames Cup eights, finally lost a race, the ninth of their regatta, yesterday evening. Racing in their two Wyfold fours in the morning, they both qualified for today's semi-finals. In their Thames Cup eight, they lined up against the Germans from Essen. The contest, a classic head-to-head all the way, proved just too much, and the Germans won by one-third of a length.

RESULTS FROM HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA

Thames Cup

Holders: Imperial College, London

Second round

Thames bt Staines SI, 7min 17sec

Quarter-finals

Wallingford A bt Tideway Scullers 2½l, 6:34
Neptune (Ire) bt Auriol Kensington 3½l, 8:47
London A bt Thames ½l, 6:24
Essen-Kupfredrah (Ger) bt Nottingham ½l, 6:37

Temple Cup

Holders: Oxford Brookes University

Second round

Oxford Brookes Univ A bt Churchill Coll, Cambridge 1¾l, 7:21
Goldie bt Oxford Brookes Univ B easily, 7:02

Third round

Univ of London bt Chenwell B 2¾l, 7:47
Imperial Coll, London A bt Dartmouth Coll B (US) 1¾l, 6:34
Nereus (Holl) bt Univ of Bristol 3¾l, 6:44
Newcastle Univ bt Strathclyde Univ easily, 6:39
Yale Univ (US) bt Univ of Wales Coll, Cardiff ½l, 6:39
Goldie bt Nottingham Univ A 2½l, 6:42
Trinity Coll, Dublin A bt Durham Univ B, 6:36
Oxford Brookes Univ A v Temple Tilburg (Holl) ¾l, 6:55

Princess Elizabeth Cup

Holders: Eton

Second round

Canford bt Abingdon A 1½l, 7:52

Quarter-finals

St Edward's bt Oundle 1¾l, 8:49
Canford bt Bedford A ¾l, 6:53
Brentwood Coll (Can) bt Hampton A ¾l, 6:46
St Paul's bt King's, Chester, nro

Wyfold Cup

Holders: Lea A

Second round

Nottingham B bt Molesey B SI, 7:40
Queen's Tower bt Kingston 2½l, 7:34

Quarter-finals

Nottingham B bt Cambridge 99 2l, 7:16
Nottingham A bt Worcester 1½l, 7:07
Molesey A bt Cygnet 1½l, 7:19
Queen's Tower bt Reading 2l, 7:19

Diamond Sculls

Holder: J Jaanson (Est)

Second round

S D Goodbrand (Rob Roy) bt J D M Scrivener (Lea) 3l, 8:42

Quarter-finals

P E Reedy (Melbourne Univ, Aus) bt Goodbrand 1l, 8:10
O W Hall-Craggs (Tideway) bt C Stofer (Sempach, Switz) 2l, 8:08
M L G Vervoorn (Delftsche Proteus-Eretes, Holl) bt J A Martinez (Potomac, US) 1lt, 7:51
A R Bihrer (Grasshopper, Switz) bt M P van der School (Koninklijke Dordrechtse, Holl) 2¼l, 8:02

Britannia Cup

Holders: Wallingford

Second round

Georgetown Univ (US) bt Bedford 1¾l, 8:11
Oxford Brookes Univ bt Staines 3½l, 7:35

Quarter-finals

Georgetown Univ (US) bt Durham Univ B 1¾l, 7:35
Kingston bt Reading 1¾l, 7:38
Univ of London bt Isis ½l, 7:35
Oxford Univ Lightweights bt Loughborough easily, 7:29

Women's Sculls

Holder: M H Brandin (Swe)

First round

B Wicki (Stanstad, Switz) bt S K Baldwin (Long Beach, US) 1½l, 9:28
P J Reid (Lea) bt K Templeton (Thames) easily, 9:57
M Brouwers (Royal Antwerp, Bel) bt R E Rudkin (Henley) 4½l, 9:47

Quarter-finals

C Luthi (Reuss Lucerne, Switz) bt R Kininmonth (Benks, Aus) 1½l, 8:56
R C Stanhope (Tideway) bt Reid 4½l, 9:00
Wicki bt Brouwers 1½l, 9:07
M H Brandin (Kungalvs, Swe) bt S C Scown (Cambridge, NZ) easily, 8:21

Double Sculls

Holders: M D Free and P T Antonie (Aus)

First round

P E Reedy and R G F Henderson (Melbourne Univ, Aus and Queen's Tower) bt D Schildhauer and I R W Weighell (Notts) easily, 8:11

Quarter-finals

J Bulow and M Schwalbe (Ratzeburger, Ger) bt U Dobler and G F Zapasa (Kingston) easily, 7:29
G Schneider and J Habermay (Thalwil and Thun, Switz) bt D M Honey and B N J Long (Kingston) 5l, 7:26
G Walker and G Lewis (Potomac and National TC, US) bt J J A Burton and S E McLaughlin (Moorman and Commercial, Aus) 2½l, 7:25
E O'Brien and L Collins (Commercial, Ire) bt P E Reedy and R F G Henderson (Melbourne Univ, Aus and Queen's Tower) 2½l, 7:19

Ladies' Plate

Holders: Notts County A

First round

Hansa Hamburg (Ger) bt Dartmouth Coll (US) 2lt, 6:46

Quarter-finals

Notts County and London bt Grasshopper and Seeclub (Switz) 2¼l, 6:32
Boston (US) bt Georgetown Univ (US) 2¼l, 6:34
Leander bt Hansa Hamburg (Ger) 1l, 6:16
Goldie bt Princeton A 1¼l, 6:19

Silver Goblets and Nickalls' Cup

Holders: S G Redgrave and M C Pinsent (GB)

First round

A Nader and H Bauer (Rudarverein Wiking Linz, Austria) bt R C Allen and R J Kelly (Isis) easily, 8:08
D B Layton and K S Weller (Cambridge 99) bt N R J Thorpe and A P L Bezzell (Leander) 3l, 8:23

Quarter-finals

Nader and Bauer bt T Nishioka and T Mizutani (Mitsubishi, Japan) 4½l, 7:15
J G Singfield and A R Cassidy (Star Club and Univ of London) bt F P O'Callaghan and B H Collins (Shannon, Ire) 2¼l, 7:50
B Schmidt and C L Codoni (Zunch, Switz) bt M P Cross and R C Stanhope (Molesey) 1lt, 7:22
Layton and Weller bt A W Batt and W M Dnden (Auckland, NZ) 2l, 8:15

Queen Mother Cup

Holders: Augusta Training Center (US)

First round

Univ of London and London bt Henley SI, 7.04
Notts County bt C des R des Bruxelles (Bel) ¾l, 6:54
Castle Semple bt Walton 2¼l, 7:00
London bt Maidenhead ¾l, 6:54
Ratzeburger (Ger) bt Queen's Tower and Imperial Coll easily, 6:58
Imperial Coll and Leander bt Tideway Scullers A ¾l, 6:37
Tideways Scullers B bt Kingston 4l, 6:58

Stewards' Cup

Holders: San Diego Training Center (US)

Quarter-finals

Goldie bt Grasshopper (Switz) 3½l, 7:12
Notts County bt Univ of London and Tyrian ¾l, 7:01
Notts County A and London bt Commercial (Ire) 4½l, 7:03

Fawley Cup

Holders: Windsor Boys' School and Poplar

First round

King's Coll and Mercantile (Aus) bt Lancaster 2¾l, 7:14
Shipley Sch (US) bt Windsor Boys' Sch 4l, 7:13
Sir William Borlase's Sch bt Brentwood Coll (Can) 4¾l, 7:18
Marlow and Star Club ro Dulwich Coll

Visitors' Cup

Holders: Isis

First round

Oxford Brookes Univ B bt Monmouth CS ¾l, 7:39
Reading Univ bt Massachusetts IT (US) 2l, 7:24
Oxford Brookes Univ A bt Univ of West of England ¾l, 7:32
Imperial Coll, London bt Trinity Hall and Sidney Sussex, Cambridge dieq
Exeter Univ bt Radley Coll (Can) 3l, 7:24
Isis bt Aberdeen Univ easily, 7:44
Argo (Holl) bt Univ of London 1½l, 7:16

Prince Philip Cup

Holders: Leander A

Quarter-finals

Potomac and Arco (US) bt Univ of London and Tyrian ¾l, 7:03



Nishioka and Mizutani, of Japan, lose in the Silver Goblet heats at Henley yesterday

IN BRIEF

England students go out in brawl

A 30-MAN brawl marred England's 36-9 defeat by France in a Student World Cup rugby union match in Johannesburg yesterday. Jonathan Kaplan, the South African referee, took a full three minutes to stop the fracas as both sides piled in mid-way through the second half, turning the match into a battleground.

Kaplan had the option of sending off any one of about a dozen players but opted to call the captains over, make them talk to their teams and then get the game going again.

The win put France, holders of the trophy, straight into the quarter-finals and relegated England — who had already lost to Japan — out of the running. France, who led 26-9 at half-time, scored four tries to none, with England's only points coming from three first-half penalties by Simon Jones, the stand-off half.

Bugner reigns

Boxing: Joe Bugner, 46, the former European, Commonwealth and British heavyweight champion, won the Pan Asian Boxing Associaition title by knocking out Young Haumono, the Tongan-born New Zealand champion, in the fifth round of their contest at the Gold Coast in Australia.

The Australian champion's left hook to Haumono's chin ended the 12-round contest fight at the Carrara Entertainment Centre. Bugner had announced his retirement after his defeat by Scott Welch, the British champion, but then changed his mind.

Hockley's mark

Cricket: Heavy rain limited the third day of the second women's Test at Worcester to just 27.3 overs but that was still long enough for Debbie Hockley, the New Zealand opening batsman, to move on to 86 not out and become the third-highest run scorer in Test cricket behind Rachel Heyhoe Flint and Jan Brittin, the England opener. New Zealand had reached 150 for two in replay to England's 276 all out.

Road workout

Cycling: Brian Smith and John Tanner, the only two riders in Britain's five-man Olympic road-race squad based in the United Kingdom, start their final preparation for Atlanta today in the Aberdeenshire classic, a new race on the calendar. The 190-mile is split into three stages.

Test chance

Cricket: Sri Lanka will play two Test matches against South Africa in March 1998, the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka said yesterday. The series, to be played in South Africa, is to be followed by a triangular one-day series in April that year involving South Africa, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Flying start

Golf: Bob Charles, of New Zealand, returned a course-record, six-under-par 66 to take a three-shot lead in the US Senior Open at Beachwood, Ohio, second place in this event in 1988. Graham Marsh, of Australia, who shot 69 was second, one shot better than Raymond Floyd, Dave Stockton and Bill Tindall. Brian Barnes, of England, was on 73 and Tony Jacklin on 74.

Nagy recovers

Speedway: Robert Nagy, from Hungary, is recovering from a broken leg and facial injuries sustained when crashing off his bike into the perimeter fence and being run over accidentally by Roman Matousek, of Sheffield, when riding for Long Eaton at Sheffield on Thursday last night.

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: North Melbourne 21 18 (144) bt Carlton 13 11 (89).

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Chicago 6 Cleveland 5 (in 10). New York 4 Milwaukee 1; Baltimore 8 Boston 6; Oakland 8 California 7 (in 11); Kansas City 5 Minnesota 3; Detroit 6 Toronto 1. Seattle 9 Texas 5

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 8 Florida 5. Cincinnati 2 Chicago 1; St Louis 7 Pittsburgh 1; San Diego 8 San Francisco 4. New York 4 Montreal 0, Houston 5 Atlanta 2. Los Angeles 9 Colorado 4.

BOWLS

BELFAST: Home International Championship: Ulster Transport: Scotland bt Channel Islands 139-93 (Scot skips first: G Hood bt S Masterton 28-7; G Adrain bt B Simon 23-16; J Arthen bt P Ingroullie 24-16; W Wood lost to D le Marquand 17-25; A Marshall bt C Renouf 23-17; R Corsie bt P James 24-13). Ireland bt England 134-116 (Ire skips first: P Smyth lost to A Allcock 21-23; G McCloy bt J Bell 22-15; G Scott lost to T Henger 20-23; S Allen bt G Smith 24-19; N Graham lost to A Thomson 18-21; C Parkinson bt D Ward 28-15). Carmickergus: Ireland bt Wales 141-84 (Ire skips first: N Graham bt T Mounty 24-14; E Parkinson lost to D Wilkins 17-18; P Smyth bt M Anstey 20-14, G McCloy bt S Wiltshire 26-17; G Scott bt W Thomas 21-16; S Allen bt R Weale 33-5); Wales bt Channel Islands 117-100 (Wales skips first: M Anstey bt P Ingroullie 29-9; S Wiltshire lost to D le Marquand 17-22; W Thomas lost to C Renouf 15-21, R Weale lost to B James 14-15, T Mounty lost to M de Carteret 17-21; D Wilkins bt B Simon 25-12).

Final standings

	P	W	L	Shots	Pts
Scotland	4	4	0	+85	8
Ireland	4	3	1	+116	6
England	4	2	2	+35	4
Wales	4	1	3	-68	2
Channel Islands	4	0	4	-168	0

CRICKET

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (final day of two): Fenner's: Cambridgeshire 195-8 dec and 194-8 dec; Staffordshire 180-6 dec and 213-7. Staffordshire won by three wickets

BAIN TROPHY: Coggeshall: Kent 265-7 (S D Wills 53); Essex 246-9 (A J E Hibbert 76, I N Flanagan 71). Kent won by 19 runs. Bromsgrove: Worcestershire 224-7 (M Dixon 89); Gloucestershire 60-2. No result. Hove: MCC Young Cricketers 223-8 (N Thurgood 60, P Shaw 51); Sussex 225-3 (J W Hall 104 not out, K Newell 71). Sussex won by seven wickets

TRIPLE CROWN CHAMPIONSHIP: Pontarddulais: England 152; Ireland 153-3 Ireland won by seven wickets. St Helens: Scotland 186-8 (G Salmond 74, M Allingham 52); Wales 200-6. Wales won by four wickets. Ireland won tournament from England on run rate.

SECOND WOMEN'S TEST: Worcester (second day of four): England 278 (J Smit 69, S Metcalfe 68; K Withers 6-73). New Zealand 92-2.

FOOTBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER: Tampa Bay 4 Columbus 1; Dallas 2 DC United 1 (shoot-out), Colorado 2 New York/New Jersey 1; New England 1 Los Angeles 0.

GOLF

LEMONT, Illinois: Western Open: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 64: B Bryant. 65: S Stricker. 67: B McCallister, L Janzen, L Mize, N Henke, J Sluman, J Ozaki (Japan), J D Blake. 68: C Rose, D Love, P Jacobsen, B Crenshaw, M Brooks, T Herron, J Furyk, J Acosta. 69: B Andrade, J Leonard, J Carter, G Waits (NZ), M Calcavecchia, F Funk, P Mickelson, D Pooley, D Forsman, J Kelly, C Parry (Aus), P Jordan.

OTHER SCORES: 70: N Price (Zim), S Elkington (Aus). 71: W Grady (Aus), N Faldo (GB), V Singh (Fiji), G Norman (Aus), J Parnevik (Swe).

LACROSSE

STOCKPORT: Tour match: England President's XII 1 United States 11.

MOTOR SPORT

CORDOBA: Argentine Rally: Leading positions after 16 stages: 1, T Meinen (Fin) Mitsubishi Lancer 2hr 43min 45sec; 2, K Eriksson (Swe) Subaru Impreza 2:44.33; 3, P Liatti (It) Subaru Impreza 2:45.45; 4, C Sainz (Sp) Ford Escort 2:48.11; 5, R Burns (GB) Mitsubishi Lancer 2:47.47.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERSHIP: Western Reds 14 Gold Coast 14; Newcastle 14 Canberra 16; Auckland 24 South Sydney 10.

RUGBY UNION

STUDENT WORLD CUP: Pool A: England 9 France 36 (in Johannesburg). Pool B: Argentina 56 Ireland 37 (in Johannesburg).

SHOOTING

BISLEY: Royal Navy pistol championships: 1, CPO J Crawford (Air Command) 1015; 2, Cook S Forryam (Plymouth) 990; 3, Lt A Vincent (Air Command) 958. Team: 1, Air Command 7,454; 2, Plymouth 6,884.

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: London 47 Belle Vue 49; Sheffield 50 Long Eaton 46; Middlesbrough 46 Oxford 49.

TENNIS

NEWPORT: LTA Reebok Tour: Men: Quarter-finals: C Singer (US) bt N Weal (Hampshire) 7-6, 8-4; K Bibby (Hereford and Worcester) bt B Zackey (SA) 2-6, 6-1, 6-0; T Spinks (Norfolk) bt N Nash (Aus) 6-2, 3-6, 6-1. Semi-finals: Bibby bt Singer 7-6, 7-6; Spinks bt P Hand (Berkshire) 6-2, 6-4. Women: Quarter-finals: N Egrova (Russ) bt T Callow (Middlesex) 6-4, 6-2; I Wyatt (Oxfordshire) bt S Jones (South Wales) 6-2, 7-5; L Woodroffe (Surrey) bt J Sinkins (South Wales) 6-2, 6-4, L Ahl (Devon) bt T Semeru (US) 6-4, 6-4. Semi-finals: Egorova bt Wyatt 6-1, 6-3; Ahl bt Woodroffe 6-3, 6-0.

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TENNIS: SÁNCHEZ VICARIO STANDS BETWEEN SINGLES CHAMPION AND FURTHER ENTRY IN GAME'S HISTORY BOOKS

Graf poised to overtake Wills Moody

By Alix Ramsay

HISTORY awaits Steffi Graf today as she walks on to the Centre Court. By beating Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, she would win her seventh Wimbledon championship and her twentieth grand slam singles title. Victory would take her past Helen Wills Moody's record of achievement at the big four events and, in the all-time list, it would place Graf second, just four titles away from Margaret Court's tally of 24. As if that, together with the £353,000 winner's cheque, was not enough, it would also be her 100th career title.

Does she think about the record books? "No, not at all," she said. "It's nothing I am going for. Maybe other people see it is within my reach, but for me it seems difficult." Not that she does not care about winning at Wimbledon — "It gets more special every time" — it is just that she is not thinking about numbers.

She almost lost her semi-final against Kimiko Date. Steaming away with the first set on Thursday evening, she was brought to an abrupt halt by the tenacious Japanese. Date, who looks as if you could knock her over with a feather, hung on, hit the lines and won six games in a row. Only at 9pm was the champion saved by bad light.

Playing the third set while most of the Centre Court spectators were still fighting their way through the morning traffic yesterday, Graf did not look well. Coughing and spluttering with the effects of a heavy cold, she stuttered through the opening games. Only when she finally landed a couple of winners in the sixth game did she manage to break Date's service and, even then, it took her three match points before she could move into the final 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

Graf has only lost one Wimbledon final, her first — and that against Martina Navratilova in 1987. Navratilova's record of nine titles at Wimbledon used to seem untouchable, but, as Graf eyes up the trophy for the seventh time, suddenly the record is there to be broken. Beating Graf on grass in the final is no easy matter — only Navratilova has succeeded.

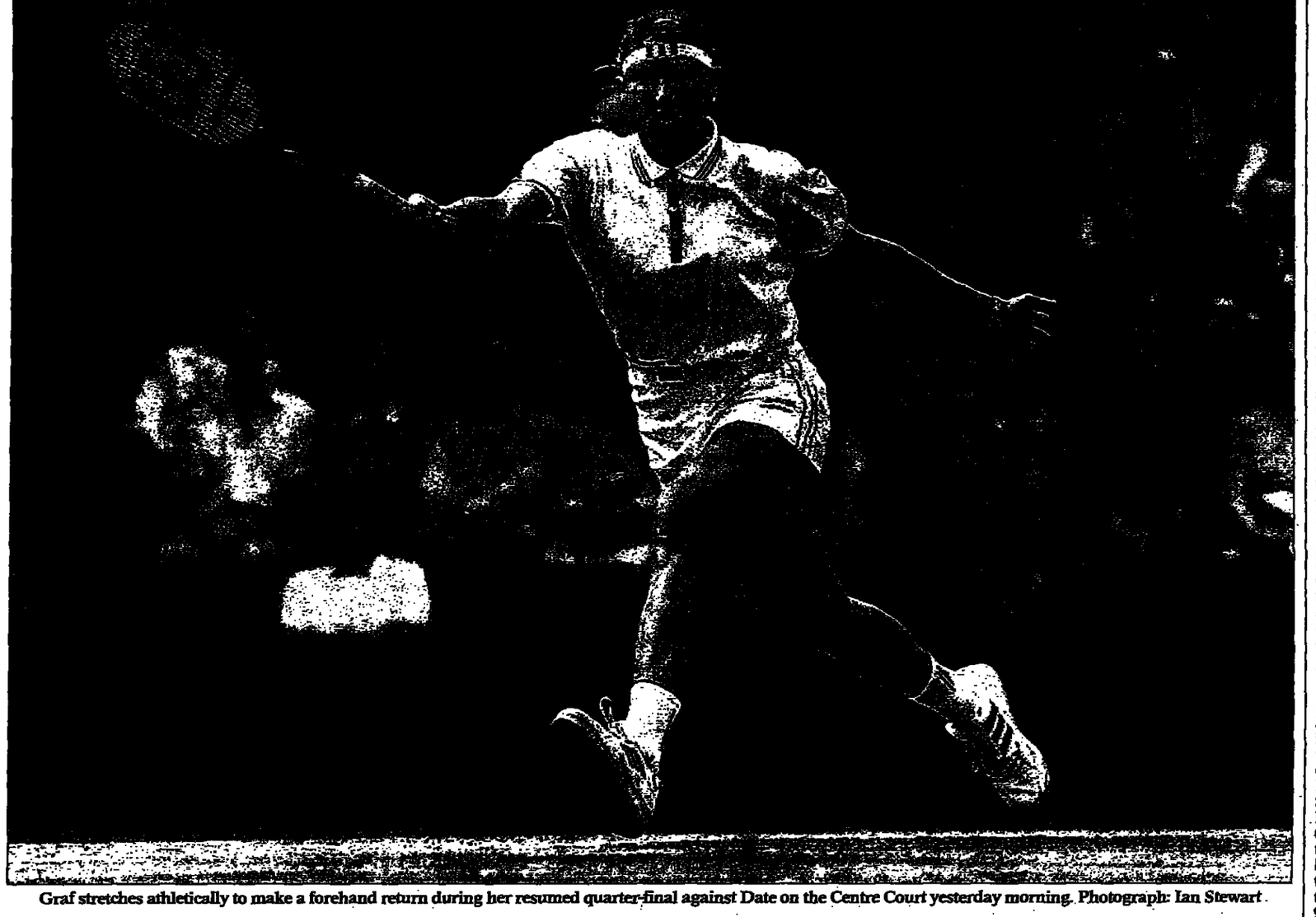
Gabriela Sabatini gave her a run for her money in 1991, only for Graf to win 8-6 in the third set; Jana Novotna was reeling her in nicely in 1993, only to watch in dismay as Graf got away again; and last year Sánchez Vicario was within touching distance of the title before Graf whipped it from her grasp.

Graf and Sánchez Vicario go back a long way. They have met 35 times and, so far, Sánchez Vicario has only won eight times. However, four of those victories have come at grand slam tournaments, the big matches when the chips were down. Last year was Graf's turn, but the whole match turned on a memorable 20-minute game in the third set. Whoever won that — and the chances for both were legion with 32 points and 13 deuces — would win the title and Graf duly obliged.

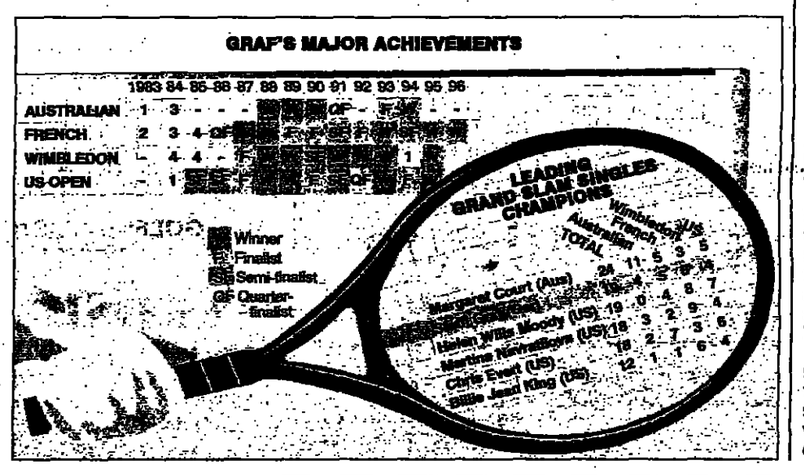
"I think you have seen plenty of us in the finals," Graf said, "and I think the way the last few finals have been going, even if people say it's the same match again, there has been some spectacular tennis and no boring finals. Hopefully it's going to be another great match."

Going into the final, Sánchez Vicario looks the sharper of the two. Her speedy 6-2, 6-1 win over Meredith McGrath proved her theory that she is getting better round by round. When it comes to playing on grass, Sánchez Vicario is now happiest on the attack, quite a turnaround for the clay court baseliner of old. Graf, by contrast, looked like she should be back in bed, tucked up with a hot water bottle. With so much at stake for the Spaniard, Graf can expect little sympathy.

One month ago, Sánchez Vicario had her best chance to crack Graf's domination in Paris. She served for the match twice and still ended up the loser in three sets. That defeat hurt more than most. Wimbledon last year was a bonus, Paris this year was hers for the taking and she let it go. If Graf is one of the toughest competitors when it matters most, Sánchez Vicario runs her a close second and she does not intend to make the same mistake again.



Graf stretches athletically to make a forehand return during her resumed quarter-final against Date on the Centre Court yesterday morning. Photograph: Ian Stewart



Lee keeps British ambition alive in boys' event

By Alix Ramsay

TIM HENMAN may have gone, but there is still a British survivor at Wimbledon. Martin Lee is still flying the flag in the boys' singles and is attempting to make his way to the semi-finals. Ivan Ljubicic, from Croatia, stands in his way and, if the rain continues, he will remain there for some time. When the heavens opened yet again yesterday, Lee was leading 3-2 in the first set.

Lee, the No 8 seed, has had a simple run, neatly making his way through the rounds without dropping a set. He is the sole survivor from a group of seven British players, most of whom failed to make it beyond the second round.

Of the six Britons who started the girls' singles, none remained after three rounds. Amanda Janes, daughter of the former Wimbledon finalist, Christine Janes, was the last hope, but she went out late on Thursday night to Olga Barabanschikova, from Belorussia. It was Janes's second match of the day, having previously beaten the No 4 seed, Sandra Kleinova, 6-2, 6-1. She could not repeat the feat against Barabanschikova, losing 6-2, 6-0. Still, it was not an ignominious defeat; her opponent will partner Natasha Zvereva in doubles at the Olympic Games.

It was not all doom and gloom for the girls, however. Jasmine Choudhury and Louise Latimer pulled off a good win over the No 1 seeds in the doubles, Guilia Casoni, from Italy, and Kristina Triska, of Sweden, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 yesterday. It took almost two hours, but they just managed to squeak through before the rain.

☐ Henman will compete in the Bournemouth International Open from September 9 to 15. The British No 1, who travels to Ghana for a Davis Cup tie in the Euro/Africa Zone group two next week, will join the former French Open champion, Sergi Bruguera, and his fellow Spaniard, Alberto Costa, in the line-up at the West Hants Club.

John Feaver, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will help to boost attendances.

"Home fans in any country need home-grown players to win in order to create that special kind of excitement that we saw this year at Wimbledon," Feaver said.

RESULTS FROM THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's singles

Winner: £392,500
Runner-up: £196,250

Holder: P Sampras (US)

Semi-finals

T MARTIN (US) level with M Washington (US) 7-5, 4-6, 7-6, 6-3

Women's singles

Winner: £353,000
Runner-up: £176,500

Holder: S Graf (Ger)

Semi-final

S GRAF (Ger) bt K DATE (Japan) 6-2, 2-6, 6-3

Men's doubles

Winners: £160,810
Runners-up: £80,400

Holders: T A Woodbridge and M Woodforde (Aus)

Quarter-finals

M PHILIPPOUSSIS and P RAFTER (Aus) bt G FORGET (Fr) and J HLASEK (Switz) 7-5, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4

Semi-final

B BLACK (Zim) and G CONNELL (Can) bt E FERREIRA (SA) and J SIEMERINK (Holl) 6-4, 6-2, 7-6

Women's doubles

Winners: £139,040
Runners-up: £69,300

Holders: J Novotna (Cz) and A Sánchez Vicario (Sp)

Third round

M J McGRATH (US) and L NEILAND (Lat) bt A DECHAUME-BALLERET and S TESTUD (Fr) 6-3, ret

J NOVOTNA (Cz) and A SÁNCHEZ VICARIO (Sp) bt K BOOGERT (Holl) and I SPIRLEA (Rom) 6-3, 6-3

Quarter-finals

P D SMYLIE (Aus) and L M WILD (US) bt L A DAVENPORT and M J FERNANDEZ (US) 5-3 ret

McGRATH and NEILAND bt K M ADAMS (US) and M de SWARDT (SA) 6-4, 7-6

Mixed doubles

Winners: £68,280
Runners-up: £34,140

Holders: J Stark (US) and M Navratilova (US)

Second round

D E Sapsford and S-A Siddall (GB) bt T Nijssen (Holl) and C Porwik (Ger) 6-4, 6-7, 6-4

P GALBRAITH and P H SHRIVER (US) bt B MacPhie and T S Whittinger-Jones (US) 6-4, 6-4

Third round

R Bergh (Swe) and K Po (US) bt P Cash (Aus) and M Pierce (Fr) 6-3, 6-4

C J van Rensburg (SA) and L Golarsa (It) bt Sapsford and Siddall 7-6, 6-3

J STARK and M NAVRATILOVA (US) bt M Ondruska (SA) and K Kschwendt (Ger) 7-6, 6-7, 7-5

L B Jensen and N J Arendt (US) bt S Draper and P D Smylie (Aus) 6-7, 7-5, 6-4

Men's Over-35 doubles

Winners: £13,250
Runners-up: £10,500

Holders: P McNamara (Aus) and L Shiras (US)

First round

J B Fitzgerald (Aus) and R Tanner (US) bt R L Case and R J Frawley (Aus) 6-4, 6-3

M R Edmondson and K Warwick (Aus) bt B E Gottfried (US) and R Ramirez (Mex) 6-1, 6-2

A A Mayer and G Mayer (US) bt S Glickstein (Isr) and P F McNamee (Aus) 4-6, 1-1 ret

P Fleming and H Pfister (US) bt M Bahrami (Iran) and J Higueras (Spain) 6-1, 6-4

K Curren and J C Kriek (US) bt Gottfried and Ramirez 7-5, 6-4

W J Ribak (Pol) and T Wilkison (US) bt T R Gullikson and L Shiras (US) 6-3, 7-5

A M Jarrett and J R Smith (GB) bt P Slozil and T Smid (Cz) 6-4, 3-6, 12-10

C Dowdeswell and C J Mottram (GB) bt M R Edmondson and K Warwick (Aus) 5-4, 3-6, 12-10

Slozil and Smid wo Glickstein and McNamee

Gullikson and Shiras bt Bahrami and Higueras 6-3, 6-2

Men's Over-45 doubles

Winners: £10,500
Runners-up: £8,250

Holders: J D Newcombe and A D Roche (Aus)

Quarter-finals

M C Riessen and S E Stewart (US) bt G Masters and A J Stone (Aus) 6-1, 6-3

I Nastase (Rom) and T S Okker (Holl) bt J D Newcombe and A D Roche (Aus) 7-6, 4-6, 8-3

Women's Over-35 doubles

Winners: £9,400
Runners-up: £7,200

Holders: W M Turnbull (Aus) and S V Wade (GB)

First round

J M Durie (GB) and A E Smith (US) bt H Gourlay and G E Reid (Aus) 6-1, 6-3

M Jausovec (Slovenia) and Y Vermaak (SA) bt R Casals (US) and B F Stove (Holl) 6-0, 7-5

Boys' singles

Holder: O Mutis (Fr)

Third round

M Lee (GB) bt A di Pasquale (Fr) 6-2, 6-4

J Crabb (Aus) bt M Sanchez (Mex) 6-1, 7-5

N Massu (Chile) bt R Cedant (Fr) 7-5, 6-4

P Wessels (Holl) bt B Bryan (US) 6-4, 7-5

V Voltchkov (Belo) bt J Robichaud (Can) 6-4, 6-3

I Ljubicic (Cro) bt A Kim (US) 7-6, 7-5

P Srichaphan (Thai) bt A Hadad (Isr) 2-6, 7-6, 7-5

J R Brandt (Ger) bt D Braccialli (It) 6-4, 5-7, 7-5

Second round

Srichaphan bt D Roberts (SA) 7-6, 6-4

Braccialli bt G Abrams (US) 6-4, 6-3

Kim bt M Daniel (Br) 7-6, 6-7, 6-4

Robichaud bt M Sandrand (Swe) 6-3, 7-5

Massu bt D Santa-Cruz (Phil) 6-3, 6-2

Ljubicic bt B C Rehnqvist (Swe) 7-5, 6-4

Brandt bt S Grosjean (Fr) 6-4, 7-5

Crabb bt M Puerta (Arg) 6-4, 6-4

Bryan bt M Russell (US) 6-4, 6-3

Voltchkov bt W Whitehouse (SA) 6-3, 6-4

Wessels bt J Pequery (Fr) 6-1, 4-6, 7-5

Girls' singles

Holder: A Olsza (Pol)

Quarter-finals

Sidot bt Barabanschikova 6-7, 7-5, 6-1

Maurasmo bt Grzybowska 6-2, 6-4

Third round

O Barabanschikova (Belo) bt A Janes (GB) 6-2, 6-0

A G Sidot (Fr) bt L Latimer (GB) 6-3, 6-0

M Grzybowska (Pol) bt M Lucic (Cro) 6-4, 4-6, 7-5

N Dechy (Fr) bt E Roubanova (GB) 6-3, 6-1

A Maurasmo (Fr) bt J Steck (SA) 6-3, 6-3

M Serna (Sp) bt A Cocheteux (Fr) 6-2, 7-5

M Jeon (S Kor) bt Z Valekova (Slovakia) 6-1, 3-6, 6-2

S Reeves (US) bt A Ellwood (Aus) 7-6, 1-6, 6-2

Second round

Serna bt K Straczy (Pol) 6-2, 6-2

Maurasmo bt Y J Cho (S Kor) 6-4, 6-2

Cocheteux bt T Poutchek (Belo) 6-2, 6-4

Sidot bt C Black (Zim) 6-2, 5-7, 6-1

Ellwood bt A Mongami (Japan) 6-4, 6-3

Reeves bt S de Beer (SA) 6-4, 6-3

Valekova bt P Schnyder (Switz) 6-4, 7-5

Dechy bt K Marosi (Hun) 6-0, 6-2

Navratilova works to rule

By Alix Ramsay

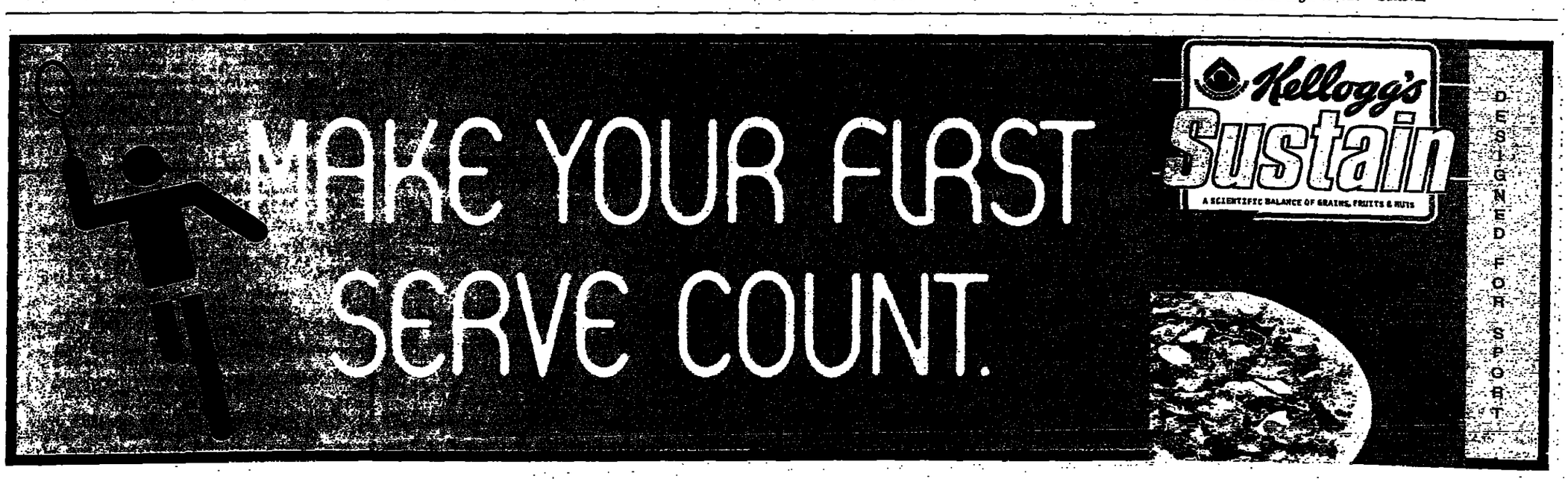
RETIREMENT is supposed to be relaxing, a time to enjoy the fruits of a lifetime's labour, a time to try all those things you never had time to do when you were working. It is not supposed to be hard graft, but that is what Martina Navratilova and her partner, Jonathan Stark, have made of getting to the quarter-finals of the mixed doubles.

Yesterday they managed to dodge much of the rain and grind out a 7-6, 6-7, 7-5 victory over Karin Kschwendt and Marcos Ondruska in a little over two hours. Arriving triumphant, if a little battle-weary, in the quarter-finals, they discovered they were the lucky ones. With four days of rain, the doubles schedule, like everything else at Wimbledon, has been thrown into chaos. In the only other match to be finished, a mixed doubles, Luke Jensen and Nicole Arendt beat Scott Draper and Liz Smylie 6-7, 7-5, 6-4.

Just when Navratilova had thought she had left all this behind, she finds herself back in the thick of it. The frustrations of rain delays, the backlog of matches — it all conspires to test the players' patience, but Navratilova is loving every minute of it. She has not played competitively since the US Open last September and the results show that the old campaigner is a little rusty. Yet back on court she is having a ball.

The trick is to pick the right partner and, in Stark, she has found an experienced doubles man. Together with her own not inconsiderable knowledge, they can hit the ground running whenever they play. They may have to keep running a little longer these days to get through the rounds, but Navratilova is as eager to win as ever. To keep fit between grand slam tournaments, she has turned her hand to a variety of sports, including sailing. With the amount of rain at Wimbledon this year, it may well stand her in good stead.

Arantxa Sánchez Vicario had a small problem on her hands. While Steffi Graf could go home and prepare for the singles final today after finishing off her match against Kimiko Date, Sánchez Vicario spent most of the day kicking her heels in the locker-room. With Jana Novotna, she skipped past Kristie Boogert and Irina Spirlea, the No 11 seeds in the women's doubles, 6-3, 6-3 in the morning, but had to wait to see if she could get back on court to play the quarter-final match against the No 8 seeds, Martina Hingis and Helena Sukova.



TENNIS: FIRST SEMI-FINAL HANGS IN THE BALANCE AS WASHINGTON AND MARTIN ARE FORCED TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY

Forgotten men still searching for light

Simon Barnes sees darkness fall early on a men's semi-final shorn of stars



Washington saved his best tennis for the fourth set of his semi-final with Martin at Wimbledon yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Curiouser and curiouser. This strangest of Wimbledons continued to unwind before us yesterday. For a moment, it seemed that normality had been restored, *Steffi Graf beating the ambi-dextrous Kimiko Date*, but this was just a simple dramatic device to throw the weird events that followed into higher relief. Darkness fell over SW19, a counterfeit night of black clouds — and, of course, the stars did not shine. They have all been knocked out.

So this starless Wimbledon, the Wimbledon of the Black Hole, continued. The first men's semi-final began, between Who-He and I'm-sure-I've-Heard-Of-Him-Just-Let-Me-Look-Him-Up. In fact, Todd Martin and MaliVai Washington have both been around for some time; they just don't win big tournaments. Yet here they are, locked at two sets apiece. Tomorrow, both step forward to answer the overwhelming questions of the semi-final.

It was Martin, of course, who beat our Brave Boy, Tim Henman, in the previous round. Without ever doing anything spectacular, he used his size, his experience and his all-round competence to do a very effective job. Washington was attempting to become the first black Wimbledon finalist since Arthur Ashe in 1975.

The most famous fact about Washington is that, two years ago, he was voted one of the Top 50 Most Beautiful People in the World by something called *People* magazine. Martin — how can I put this kindly? — was probabaly not a big part of the magazine's decision-making process.

The killer fact about Martin is his height: 6ft 6in. Now, a lot of people talk about such physically exceptional people as if they had some kind of almost unfair advantage; that the bigger you are, the better you must be. If that were so, all sports would be the domain of giants. This is not actually true of American football and is not even quite true of basketball. The fact is that, in most ball games, there are some players who are exceptional physically and they always look as if this gives them an unfair advanatage.

This is true whatever size or build they are. We have been watching Sachin Tendulkar, 5ft 4in, knocking seven bells out of the England bowling over the past couple of days and we all know about that stocky midget called Diego. The point at issue is not that such players have an exceptional build; it is that they are exceptional.

For, in most ball games, there is a trade-off. At times, Martin, worked from side to side of the court by Henman, needed to do a three-point turn to get back in position. Yesterday, Washington sent some fizzing service returns to the feet of the incoming Martin — and that is a long way down.

However, Martin knows how to use his bulk. When he crowds the net, he is one of the most intimating sights in tennis — and a lot of tennis is about intimidation. You can try to pass him, but he has a huge wing-span and has infinitely quicker hands than seems right for a man of his size.

Or you can try and lob him, as Washington did on several occasions. Well, it has to be some lob. To get it up high enough and then to bring it down again in time — these tasks were mostly beyond Washington. Martin hammered his attempts back with routine brutality.

Solid, that is the word. Martin's solid serve is backed up by a big, solid man with a solid nature. Washington, stocky and muscular, looks like a middleweight, but, for long periods, Martin made him look like a lightweight. Being Washington's coach is not a job I would fancy. You feel that, if he were to play his best tennis all the time, he would be among the best players around; if he only played his best half the time, he'd be in most grand slam semi-finals by right.

The fourth set was one of the most extraordinary seen at Wimbledon this year. For some extraordinary, quite unaccountable reason, Washington started to play his best tennis. He had been roundly beaten in the first set, recovered, a mite luckily, to win the second, but then it looked, again, as if order had been restored. Martin, standing to his full height, took the third set tie-break with visibly growing confidence.

Then the ball started to fizz off the Washington racket, the returns began to bite deep, the service acquired venom and confidence and so did Washington. One disguised forehand down the line was one of the top 50 most beautiful shots of the tournament this far.

Suddenly, we all perked up: so, naturally, the weather, operating on the reverse of the pathetic fallacy, perked down. Off we all trooped yet again. Try again tomorrow. If Washington plays his best tennis, he will win. But he will need to.

FOOTBALL

Taylor alarmed by spate of foreign signings

BY PETER BALL

THE signings earlier this week of Fabrizio Ravanelli and Florin Raducioiu may have brought joy to the North East and to East London, but they were greeted with gloom in another quarter yesterday. Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), warned that the influx of foreign players into the Premiership could stifle the growth of local talent.

"There is now an awful lot of money going out of our game and clubs need to be reminded of their responsibilities," Taylor said. "The pattern now is to go for a ready-made international rather than a rough diamond. Clubs want ready-made success. Most are not prepared to be patient."

He added: "The success of England in Euro 96 shows that we have to put more resources into youth development. I wouldn't want that momentum to be lost."

This is not the first time that Taylor has voiced such fears and his timing may not be perfect in the week that Lee Bowyer and Ben Thatcher both broke transfer records with moves to Leeds United and Wimbledon respectively.

However, Taylor is concerned about the future of young players at the clubs which are now spending the £7m that Middlesbrough paid for Ravanelli or even the £2.4m West Ham paid for Raducioiu. "The North East used to be a regular breeding ground with people like Alan Shearer, Paul Gascoigne, Chris Waddle and Peter Beardsley coming through," Taylor said.

"Now Newcastle and Middlesbrough are turning instead to seasoned internationals. That might be good from a spectator's point of view but we need to strike a balance and help the young players. West Ham got to the Youth Cup Final last season. Yet how many of that team is going to break through, now they are signing so many players from abroad?"



Taylor: 'stifling talent'

There must surely be space for players such as Ravanelli and Raducioiu for both are oustanding strikers who could adorn the Premiership. But the real problem perhaps is the spread of lesser names. Nottingham Forest yesterday confirmed that they are trying to sign the 31-year-old Croatia defender, Nikola Jerkan and this week Manchester United signed the Norwegian duo of Ronnie Johnsen and Ole Gunnar Solskjar from Besiktas and Molde respectively.

Meanwhile, Blackburn Rovers are moving to keep their English players at Ewood Park. Tim Flowers has agreed a new five-year contract, following the examples of Jason Wilcox and Colin Hendry who have also signed contracts keeping them at Ewood Park until the next century.

Blackburn's decision to put their players on long contracts, while fighting off Manchester United's attempt to lure Shearer away, has been prompted by the Bosman Ruling allowing free transfers for movements to Europe at the end of a contract.

One player did move yesterday, Barcelona going back to Portgual for Vitor Baia, after their bid to sign Andreas Köpke, the Germany goalkeeper, fell down because he had already signed forms for Stuttgart.

☐ Chelsea yesterday completed the signing of the Italian midfield player, Roberto Di Matteo, from Lazio for a club record £4.9 million. Di Matteo becomes Chelsea's second Italian star after the recruitment of Gianluca Vialli and joins the London club just two days after they completed the formalities of the France defender Franck Leboeuf's move from Strasbourg for £2.5million.

Bending the rules to make medal available

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

NOW it is one of those strange but true facts that there are rules in the sport of Australian No Rules Football, and it is a minority view that these rules are actually quite important. The sport's greatest individual honour is the Brownlow Medal, which, every year since 1924, has been awarded to the "best and fairest" player. It has long been the tradition to take both halves of this tag with equal seriousness, so much so that any player who is found guilty of misbehaviour is automatically disqualified from Brownlow Medal consideration.

But no longer. Now, if you are merely fined, and not actually suspended, you are still in the running for the medal. Bob Skilton, who won the Brownlow three times in the 1960s, was enthusiastic about the change: "I reckon everybody should be able to win it, whether they're rubbed out or not," he said. He went on to say that the "fairest" part of the tag should be droppped; what, after all, has fairness to do with sport?

The problem is that a lot of players have been fined of late for "minor offences such as wrestling and pushing, and in mêlées". As C. B. Fry said, when both sides agree to cheat, it is commonly accepted that cheating is fair.

Having a ball

Can we have our ball back please? The plea is part of the eternal pattern of English life; I can now reveal that it is also part of the Italian experience. Giovanni Battista Mirone lives in Alessandria and the local football team trains on ground adjacent to his orchard. Mirone is 70 and, over the years, has grown a mite fed up with balls flying onto his land and with the damage caused by the lads clambering in to collect them. So he sued 19 members of the team for violation of domicile and damage.

The president of the football club, Carlo Biratti, then counter-sued for damage and illegal appropriation. Old Mirone won the case and was granted a cool million in damages, though since the sum is in lira, he won't actually be able to retire on it; it is worth about £450 — and he was ordered to return the balls he had been keeping, as a gesture of goodwill. All 52 of them.

Name game

Congratulations to *The International Who's Who* for their prescience. They included for the first time in the latest edition the name of Todd Martin, he who defeated our Brave Boy at Wimbledon this week. They have also included their first American footballer — a chap named O. J. Simpson.

No bust-up

Now for a quick thought about sex. I am sure you will all be relieved to know that Alison Williamson, the British archery champion, will not be disciplined by the Grand National Archery Society after she posed topless for *Esquire* magazine. She did so, she said, to attract attention to her sport. In a quite astonishing display of grown-upness, that rarest of rare commodities in sport, John Middleton, chief executitve of the society, dismissed the business out of hand. "It's even less than a storm in a teacup."

Beer match

Here is a sporting event that some may consider just the tiniest bit politically incorrect. This is the sport of woman carrying and it takes place today in Finland in the village of Sonkajarn. The idea is to select a woman from the group available and to carry her over a tough obstacle course of a little under 300 yards. It is an event that provides one of the classic dilemmas in sport: clearly there is logic behind the ploy of selecting the smallest woman available, but the catch comes with the prize, which is the weight of the woman selected in beer.

Keeping ahead

The sympathies of this column go to the goalkeeper of the week, Carlos Bossio, of Estudiantes de la Plata, in Argentina, who narrowly failed to add to his season's tally of goals when he hit the bar from a free kick. He has scored once so far, with a last-minute header against Racing Club. The leading goalie in Argentina is José Luis Chilavert, who plays for Velez Sarsfield, and has scored for them three times; a penalty and two free kicks.

Price of gold

The average monthly wage in Russia is less than $150 (about £100). Boris Yeltsin has promised that any athlete who wins a gold medal at the Olympic Games will get $50,000; he will also award the same amount for an "outstanding achievement". It takes your average Russian 55 years to earn the same amount. Meanwhile, I learn that the American basketball player, Shaquille O'Neal, who seems to be singularly impressed by himself, has been insured for the duration of the Olympic Games for the sum of $50 million.



GOLF: SAND STORM FOLLOWED BY RAIN ON SECOND DAY OF IRISH OPEN

Woosnam lashes out at bunkers

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN NEWTONMOUNTKENNEDY
CO WICKLOW

AS RAIN, hailstones and thunder interrupted the afternoon's play in the Murphy's Irish Open, causing an hour's delay, Ian Woosnam probably sat back in his hotel room, rubbed his hands and asked for more of the same. He had finished by then and his round of 70 at Druids Glen, one better than the day before, was good enough to leave him, at one under par, right in the thick of things at the halfway stage.

By then, too, Miguel Angel Martin had returned a 68 to be on 138, three under par, the same total as Peter Hedblom, the strikingly blond Swede who won in Morocco near the start of the season. A 68 by Andrew Coltart put him two under par, level with Ignacio Garrido, Wayne Westner and Andrew Oldcorn.

The mutterings of discontent about the course did not diminish on the second day. Woosnam beefed about there being too much sand in the bunkers, an echo of remarks that Colin Montgomerie had made at The Oxfordshire a few weeks ago, and a viewpoint with which Martin agreed. "I was twice in bunkers and they're almost unplayable," Martin said.

"Every week, the bunkers are terrible," Woosnam said. "There is far too much sand in them. If they took three inches out of every bunker, I reckon there would still be too much. I reckon courses put in lot of sand for the amateurs because they find it easier, but professionals don't want so much."

Woosnam can moan with the best of them and it may be that he has a point, but to weekend golfers, used to professionals whingeing about bumpy greens, tricky fairways, thick rough and at least half a dozen other things, these complaints fall on deaf ears. Woosnam is a professional, after all, one of the best in the world. He ought to be able to play the shot required.

A new complaint was that some holes were too severe, which begs the question: when is a golf hole fair or severe and when is it too difficult? Robert Trent Jones said that a good golf hole should be a difficult par and a comfortable bogey. The 11th is a par five reachable in two, but only by clearing a 60-yard stretch of stubbly rough grass between the end of the fairway and the putting surface.

By Jones's yardstick, the 11th is a very good hole, though Bernhard Langer and David Feherty would probably disagree. Feherty's second ended 25 yards short and he took four more to hole out. Langer's approach shot made a spirited effort to reach the green but pulled up a few feet short. He would probably have rather been 50 yards from the flag than 25 feet, because he then had to play one of those difficult chips from the thick rough that he dislikes so much. His ball went eight feet too far and he pretended to bang his club into the ground in exasperation. Then he two-putted for a par. Darren Clark was another player close in two who took six.

It was left to Michael Campbell to demonstrate how to play the hole correctly. His second shot was long and accurate enough to thud into the putting surface, demonstrating that a birdie can be achieved, but only by reaching the green in two — as Colin Montgomerie was to do minutes later.

The hole, in short, demands that if you go for the green, you had better make sure you hit the stroke properly. What, after all, could be fairer than that?

LEADING SECOND-ROUND SCORES

GB and Ire unless stated:

138: C Montgomerie 69, 69. 139: P Hedblom (Swe) 71, 68; M A Martin (Sp) 71, 68. 140: A Coltart 72, 68; W Westner (SA) 70, 70; I Garrido (Sp) 71, 69; A Oldcorn 72, 68. 141: L Westwood 70, 71; I Woosnam 71, 70; R Willison 72, 69; W Riley (Aus) 73, 68. 142: C Mason 74, 68. 143: S Torrance 71, 72; A Johnstone (Zim) 73, 70; J Cosseras (Arg) 71, 72; R Muntz (Holl) 73, 70; M Wills 73, 70; J Haeggman (Swe) 71, 72; E Els (SA) 73, 70; B Langer (Ger) 74, 69; F Nobilo (NZ) 71, 72. 144: P Baker 74, 70; D A Russell 71, 73; R Russell 74, 70; R Drummond 72, 72; S Tinning (Den) 72, 72; P-U Johansson (Swe) 69, 75; P Mitchell 72, 72. 145: D Hospital (Sp) 75, 70; M Tunnicliff 76, 69; G Evans 76, 69; R Chapman 72, 73; P O'Malley (Aus) 75, 70; S Ames (Trin) 71, 74. 146: M Roe 75, 71; J Payne 77, 69; D Chopra (Swe) 73, 73; R Rafferty 74, 72; A Lyle 75, 71; R Burns 72, 74; D Howell 73, 73; M Hallberg (Swe) 78, 70; E Giraud (Fr) 75, 71; P Price 76, 70; J Townsend (US) 76, 70. 147: J Bickerton 78, 71; D Williams 74, 73; J Sandelin (Swe) 74, 73; J Rivero (Sp) 76, 71; C Suneson 76, 71; D Clarke 79, 68.

Norman in limelight yet again

IT WOULD seem that life is rarely dull for Greg Norman with the Australian seemingly heading for another controversy before attempting to win the Open Championship for a third time at Royal Lytham and St Annes.

He followed his collapse against Nick Faldo in the US Masters by being disqualified from last week's Greater Hartford Open for using a wrongly stamped ball — now he will lead a delegation of players to discuss leadership style with his fellow Australian, David Graham, the captain of an international team to play the United States in Washington in September.

The Australian's first priority was to improve his position in yesterday's Motorola Western Open in Chicago where he and Faldo were seven strokes behind American Brad Bryant, who led the first round by one shot with 64.

Swedes squelch on regardless

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN COLOGNE

THE Swedish connection squelched steadily onwards in the second round of the Hennessy Cup at the Golf und Landclub Cologne yesterday. Given the unremitting, relentless rain, it should have been re-christened the Wasserclub, but Helen Alfredsson and Liselotte Neumann maintained their premier positions with rounds of 70, two under par, for a total of 138, six under.

Lisa Hackney, the Midlander who is the Welsh Open champion, belied her nickname of Hackers to be two shots behind on 140. She split the Scandinavian axis, being a stroke ahead of Annika Sorenstam, the defending champion, and Karina Orum, the Dane. The only other player under par was Trish Johnson, of England, the last non-Swede to win this title, in Paris in 1990.

Johnson limped round in 71 for the second successive day, despite a badly bruised left leg, the legacy of an exuberant leap to celebrate one of England's four goals against Holland a couple of weeks ago.

Laura Davies, the world No 2, was another limper — she had a blister on her left heel — but, after dropping shots at the 3rd and 4th holes, she came home in 31, five under par, with birdies at the 10th, 11th, 12th, 15th and 18th. In the conditions, even Davies could not reach the last hole, a par five of 465 yards, in two. Being Davies, she tried, with a two-iron from a bad lie, but came up 80 yards short. However, she pitched to 15 feet and sank the putt for a round of 69 and a total of 145, in the top ten.

Sadly, the best round of a dismal day, a 68 returned by Karen Lunn, the former Weetabix Women's British Open champion from Sydney, was rendered null and void. Lunn signed her card and left the recording area before it was discovered that she and Shani Waugh, her partner, had marked the wrong scorecards. Lunn's score was recorded on Waugh's card and vice versa.

Lunn was disqualified under Rule 6-6d for signing for a score lower than she had actually taken — Waugh had three birdies in the first five holes and Lunn did not. Waugh, who shot 72, was saved because she had not left the recording area and her card was amended with the correct name, in accordance with Decision 6-6d/4.

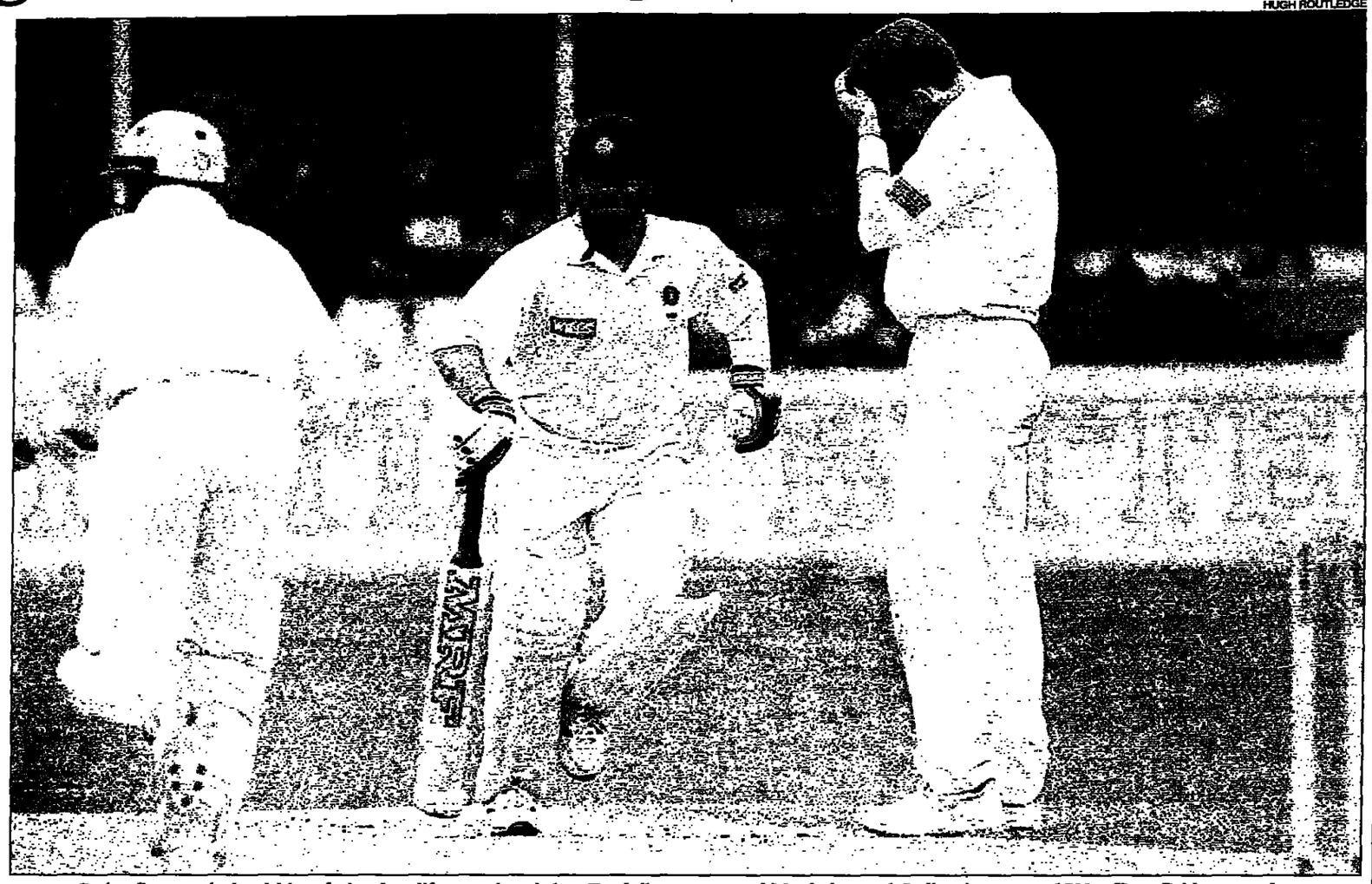
LEADING SCORES

SECOND-ROUND LEADERS (GB and Ire unless stated): 138: H Alfredsson (Swe) 68, 70; L Neumann (Swe) 69, 70. 140: L Hackney 70, 70. 141: A Sorenstam (Swe) 71, 70; K Orum (Den) 68, 73. 142: T Johnson 71, 71. 144: C Hj Koch (Swe) 71, 73; N Fink (Austria) 71, 73. 145: L Davies 76, 69; A Gomo (Swe) 74, 71; T Fischer (Ger) 73, 72; S Gronberg 71, 74. 146: V Michaud (Fr) 70, 76; S Strudwick 70, 76; A-M Knight (Aus) 74, 72. 147: J Morley 70, 77; L Fairclough 76, 72; L Navarro (Sp) 73, 74; X Wunsch (Sp) 78, 69. 148: L Lambert (Aus) 74, 74; S Croce (It) 77, 71; M-L de Lorenzi (Fr) 75, 73; A Nicholas 75, 73.

Escape for Atherton after India set follow-on target of 322 in third Test

England left long haul to safety

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Cork reflects on the hardships of a bowler's life on such a pitch as Tendulkar, centre, and Manjrekar push India's score toward 500 at Trent Bridge yesterday

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of five): England, with all first-innings wickets standing, are 489 runs behind India

ENGLAND now know what must be done, and it may not be pretty to watch. The second-highest total ever made in this country by India has left this final Cornhill Test with limited directions to turn. On a serene surface, much the likeliest outcome is the draw that would be sufficient to protect and secure England's 1-0 lead in the series.

The prospect of stalemate hardened last evening as England saw out a tricky 11 overs without loss. It was, however, a near thing, for Michael Atherton, who had dropped Sachin Tendulkar before he scored and suffered anguish as he went on to 177, was now himself put down when on nought. The chance, off the excellent Javagal Srinath, flew to third slip and Rahul Dravid failed to get a hand on it. Atherton will now look to make him pay and so help make this series safe.

Michael Henderson 46
Photograph 46
Mushtaq mesmerises 46
Wells overflows 46

The cricket yesterday, was largely too predictable, too measured to absorb or invigorate. There was a barometer within the crowd, which resorted to distracted chanting and inane conduct, and another in the movements of Raymond Illingworth, who wandered the ground restlessly, confessing he was finding it hard to settle and watch such an uneven contest between bat and ball.

England did not bowl badly — in general, their line was better than on the first day and their perseverance was admirable — but after a first hour in which the new ball swung under heavy cloud cover, nothing in the pitch or atmosphere encouraged them. Batting became altogether too straightforward. There is a paradox here. When the first Test ended early on the fourth day, the Edgbaston pitch quite properly stood condemned, for nobody wants to see a match in which batting is reduced to a lottery.

It is equally true, however, that nobody wants to see a game in which the pitch offers so little that bowling becomes an exercise in futility. There has to be a balance and none of the pitches used for this series have provided it.

India were entitled to use this second day to consolidate a promising position. Perhaps they overdid the caution; certainly, the attractions of the day withered when Sachin Tendulkar was out, two short of his highest Test score. Impressively as Dravid was to play, Tendulkar was the man who might have provided a more compelling momentum.

He had needed to be at his most correct and alert to negotiate the early overs and he approached them with the vigilance of one who had a double-century in mind. Ganguly could not match him. He failed to add to his overnight 136 and was out to a catch at wide third slip from a flashy drive against Mullally, after being struck painfully on the left hand by the previous ball.

Having ended the record stand, England now went on the attack and Manjrekar, the new batsman, was crowded by six close catchers. Captaincy in the field can be a thankless business at 300 for three, but Atherton was thoughtful and exploratory in his field placings and bowling changes. His bowlers responded well and, with a little more luck, England might have taken a couple more wickets by lunch.

Cork plainly felt aggrieved at the rejection of leg-before appeals against both batsmen. K. T. Francis, the imperturbable umpire from Sri Lanka, was vindicated on each occasion, but it cannot possibly be healthy to have such contentious moments instantly replayed on the giant video screen. Not only can it agitate the crowd and bring renewed posturing from the more theatrical players, of whom Cork is most certainly one; it also adds to the strain of umpiring.

Tendulkar, however, moved serenely onwards, accelerating again as he reached 150 with his 21st four after seven hours in the middle. There was a brief exhibition of that wondrous off-drive, played with the weight on the back foot and the balance perfect, and as the second session began he square-cut Ealham for four despite a sweeper being stationed no more than ten yards from where the ball crossed the ropes.

Yet he was out to a misjudgement, pulling at a short ball too wide of off-stump to permit control of the stroke. It looped to mid-on, Patel's catch giving Ealham a maiden Test wicket, after which he was correctly withdrawn by Atherton in order to put a prepared plan into operation against Azharuddin. The India captain has had a wretched series and it was not about to improve. Atherton positioned Patel under the helmet at short-leg and he reacted sharply as Azharuddin, his feet stuck on the crease, jabbed at a rising ball from Lewis. It was a well-conceived, well-worked dismissal for which the coach, David Lloyd, deserves some credit.

Manjrekar and Dravid added an untroubled 61 for the sixth wicket before England took three wickets for seven. Still, they were not quite through and Dravid skilfully farmed the strike while putting on 60 for the ninth wicket with Prasad. It was a partnership that required a run-out to end it, though why umpire Sharp needed the help of the third umpire to confirm that Stewart's underarm throw had beaten Prasad home by fully a yard was difficult to comprehend. The virtue of the system will be diminished if umpires hide behind its convenience.

Dravid had batted with enterprise for three hours, an innings all the more laudable for being sacrificed, in sight of a maiden century, in the cause of his side. India needed a breakthrough before the close; the irony is that Dravid himself should have supplied it.

SCOREBOARD FROM TRENT BRIDGE

India won toss

INDIA: First Innings

V Rathore c Russell b Cork 4
(13min, 7 balls)
†N R Mongia c Russell b Lewis 9
(38min, 24 balls, 1 four)
S C Ganguly c Hussain b Mullally 136
(361min, 268 balls, 2 sixes, 17 fours)
S R Tendulkar c Patel b Ealham 177
(462min, 350 balls, 26 fours)
S V Manjrekar c Hick b Patel 53
(217min, 144 balls, 1 six, 5 fours)
*M Azharuddin c Patel b Lewis 5
(17min, 11 balls)
R Dravid c Russell b Ealham 84
(176min, 149 balls, 12 fours)
A Kumble low b Mullally 0
(4min, 6 balls)
J Srinath c Cork b Lewis 1
(7min, 9 balls)
B K V Prasad run out (Stewart) 13
(79min, 32 balls)
S L V Raju not out 1
(10min, 8 balls)
Extras (b 6, lb 12, w 7, nb 13) 38
Total (167 overs, 698min) 521

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7 (Mongia 3), 2-33 (Ganguly 20), 3-288 (Tendulkar 123), 4-377 (Manjrekar 31), 5-385 (Manjrekar 33), 6-448 (Dravid 31), 7-447 (Dravid 31), 8-453 (Dravid 36), 9-513 (Dravid 77).

BOWLING: Lewis 37-10-89-3 (nb 9, w 4; 8 fours, 7-0-23-1, 5-1-16-0, 4-1-9-0, 4-2-4-0, 5-2-11-0, 2-1-4-0, 3-1-12-1, 7-2-10-1); Cork 32-6-124-1 (nb 4; 17 fours; 8-2-27-1, 3-0-29-0, 6-2-14-0, 7-2-22-0, 3-0-8-0, 5-0-24-0); Mullally 40-12-88-2 (nb 1, w 1; 11 fours; 3-1-9-0; 8-2-15-0, 2-0-8-0, 7-1-14-0, 7-2-15-1, 5-3-5-0, 3-2-1-1, 2-0-16-0, 3-1-5-0); Ealham 29-8-90-2 (13 fours; 6-1-17-0; 6-3-18-0, 6-3-20-0, 3-1-11-1, 5-1-13-0, 3-0-11-1); Patel 24-2-101-1 (nb 2; 3 sixes, 12 fours; 1-0-6-0, 5-0-20-0, 9-1-30-0, 1-0-11-0, 1-0-6-0, 7-1-28-1); Hick 4-1-8-0 (one spell); Thorpe 1-0-3-0 (w 2).

SCORING NOTES: Second day: Lunch: 367-3 (118 overs, 485min; Tendulkar 169, Manjrekar 30). Tea: 453-7 (147 overs, 605min; Dravid 36, Srinath 1). Third new ball: 509-8 (161.2 overs) at 5.09pm.

ENGLAND: First Innings

*M A Atherton not out 21
(46min, 35 balls, 2 fours)
A J Stewart not out 10
(46min, 33 balls, 1 four)
Extras (nb 1) 1
Total (no wkt, 11 overs, 48min) 32

N Hussain, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, M A Ealham, †R C Russell, C C Lewis, D G Cork, M M Patel and A D Mullally to bat.

BOWLING: Srinath 6-1-14-0 (nb 1; 2 fours); Prasad 4-1-16-0 (nb 1; 1 four); Kumble 1-0-2-0; one spell each

Umpires: K T Francis (Sri Lanka) and G Sharp.

Third umpire: D J Constant. Match referee: C W Smith (West Indies)

SERIES DETAILS: First Test: (Edgbaston): England won by eight wickets. Second Test (Lord's): Match drawn.

□ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

Washington states his case with tenacity

BY DAVID MILLER

MALIVAI WASHINGTON, who was born on Long Island and is now resident in Florida, yesterday played two of the best sets of a career spanning 27 grand-slam events. Plagued by rain interruptions, he retained the chance to become Wimbledon's first black men's singles finalist since the late Arthur Ashe won the title in 1975.

Halted for the second time just after 3pm and with play finally abandoned nearly five hours later, Washington stands at two sets all with Todd Martin, his American Davis Cup colleague, after two hours and 44 minutes of play. Twice a set behind, Washington, ranked twentieth in the world, had summoned all his experience and a fine variation of shots to resist the powerful serving of the taller Martin, the No 13 seed, who had conquered Tim Henman in the quarter-final.

In the first Wimbledon men's semi-finals with three unseeded players — including Jason Stoltenberg and Richard Krajicek in the match to follow — since Roger Taylor, Wilhelm Bungert and Nikki Pilic in 1967, Washington had refused to be over-awed. The number of statistics amassing from this year's fall of fifteen seeded players has matched the number of rain breaks.

This was Washington's seventh consecutive Wimbledon, never having previously passed the second round. He has reached eight tournament finals, sufficient to earn prize-money in excess of £1.5 million, though his previous best grand slam performance was the Australian Open quarter-final in 1994. To arrive at this stage of a highly unusual after surrendering six consecutive games the previous evening to become set all with Kimiko Date, the first woman semi-finalist from Japan, was able to regroup her game yesterday morning. Her touch returned in taking the final set 6-3 to open the way for a twentieth grand slam title.

Graf on brink 50
Lee's ambition 50
Results 50
Simon Barnes 51

The men's final, on the other hand, will be between players with whom the public is predominantly unfamiliar; highly competitive though all four of them are. Inevitably, there is to be a new name on the trophy, yet the reputations of all are a closed book in social tennis conversation.

Such is the depth of the men's game compared with the women's that seeded players are always on the brink of elimination. But because some usually survive, the abilities of those outside the top 16 of the ranking list — automatically seeded everywhere but at Wimbledon — rarely penetrate as far as the last four and gain the headlines and public awareness. Yet in 1996 there have already been eight unseeded winners on the ATP tour.

Martin, ranked No 18 in the world, and with a record of five career titles, including Sydney this year, and nine other finals, including the 1994 Australian Open, has amassed £2.5 million in prize-money with his service power and return of serve. Yet at times yesterday, Washington revealed a breadth that made the match more than a matter of serve and volley.

Because the era of open professionalism has fostered the percentage game, with the avoidance of extravagance and risk, colour and character has tended to be eliminated. Yet those who may yearn for the wizardry of, say, McEnroe or Laver, tend to overlook how repetitive was the serve-and-volley era of the Sixties, with players such as Emerson, Stolle and Newcombe.

When Martin broke Washington's service for the second time, on his opponent's errors, to take the first set 7-5, it seemed that the man with the bigger reputation was on his way. Washington had other ideas.

With three scintillating backhands and the help on game point of a double fault, he broke to lead 3-2, thereafter holding service to level the match 6-4. Martin took the third set tie-break after Washington had saved four set points. Rain caused a halt for half an hour.

Back they came and, with a superb cross-court forehand, Washington broke to lead 4-2 and, with finer judgment of length, again levelled the match with a superb ace wide of the backhand on set point. All is to play for.



Martin twice held the upper hand in the semi-final against Washington yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

No women rule keeps MCC from jackpot in lottery

BY JOHN GOODBODY

MCC has had an application for National Lottery funds turned down, partly because the world's most famous cricket club refuses to admit women as members. The Sports Council has refused to help both Lord's and the Oval in their bids to redevelop their grounds for the 1999 World Cup because it believes that neither scheme "represented clear value for money in return for significant lottery investment".

MCC asked for £4.9 million towards a 4,000-seat replacement for the Grand Stand costing £12.9 million, while Surrey asked for £13.75 million towards a £29.5 million project at the Oval. Surrey does admit women as members.

Derek Casey, the chief executive of the Sports Council, yesterday emphasised that it had a clear policy of not agreeing to help applications for lottery funding for organisations which operate restrictions in membership.

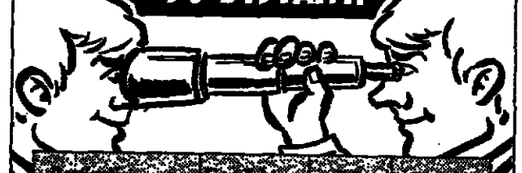
"Currently there is no overall strategy for cricket at county or national level — the English Cricket Board is yet to be established — and if public money is to be invested in cricket through the Lottery Sports Fund, certain fundamental issues have be addressed by both the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) and the clubs," he said.

"Community benefit and open membership are fundamental critera for lottery funding, as is value for money. Like all cricket supporters, we are looking forward to the 1999 World Cup and we want the best facilities for the matches."

The Council will now work with the TCCB and the clubs to see if the applications can be changed to make them fit Lottery criteria. They have jointly set up a four-month study to examine the future uses and needs of leading cricket facilities in England, although the aim of the Lottery is primarily to encourage people to play rather than to watch sport.

In its first 15 months of operation, the Lottery has already provided £10.4 million of support to local community cricket schemes. Its total spending to all sports in the United Kingdom is £248 million.

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TV giant secures Olympics scoop from rundown bar

FROM BOB GRAHAM IN ATLANTA

A TINY bar overlooking the Olympic Stadium is set to become the world's best-known watering hole over the next five weeks — and all because of the bitter rivalry between two TV giants.

Pauly's Bar is little larger than a garden shed, but it is to be home to CNN for what is described as "exclusive Olympic coverage". The worldwide broadcasting network — smarting over the loss of the coverage of the Games — has pulled off a coup by arranging live coverage of events in the stadium from the roof of the bar.

A specially constructed platform 20ft above Pauly's Bar will have an uninterrupted view of the stadium. CNN's audacity has angered their American rivals, NBC, who paid nearly $500 million (£330 million) for the rights to cover the Games in Atlanta, where CNN has its headquarters.

But furious NBC chiefs will be unable to block the CNN cameras which are to broadcast live news events to 197 countries. The coup was made possible by a special deal between CNN and Atlanta businessman Paul D'Agnese, owner of the bar.

Mr D'Agnese bought the bar for $60,000 two years ago after work began on the Olympic Stadium. He said: "The bar was very rundown, but it was in a great location — directly overlooking the site of the new stadium."

The 33-year-old bar owner added: "My initial reason for buying the place was to renovate it and turn it into a lively bar close by the stadium. I knew that the Olympics would be attracting large numbers of people and hoped I could cash in on the popularity."

Mr D'Agnese had not bargained on the TV war. It was less than four months ago that CNN — desperate to find good camera points outside the stadium — spotted the potential of Pauly's Bar. Its elevation — 100ft above the stadium walls — provided a vantage point. A surveyor was brought in and it was agreed that a platform sited 20ft above the bar's single-storey roof would give a view of virtually the entire stadium.

Mr D'Agnese said: "We decided to go for it and agreed a deal with CNN using the roof for live broadcasts for no charge, as long as they always announce the dateline that they were broadcasting live from the roof of Pauly's Bar overlooking the stadium. It was an opportunity to get free worldwide publicity the like of which money could not buy."

The bar-owner's luck improved when the site for the Olympic flame was placed within a shot-put of his front door. "It provided a perfect backdrop for the live CNN broadcasts." Mr D'Agnese said. "We have arranged that the platform will be used as a special outside studio where gold medallists will be brought for interviews."

He has spent nearly $150,000 on renovating the bar and hiring 60 people to serve drinks and food during the 17 days of the Games. He said: "We have calculated we will be getting anywhere between 250,000 and 300,000 people in the area of the stadium every day for the duration of the Games."

Mr D'Agnese reckons his profits will top $1 million. "Let the Games begin," he said. "It's not the taking part that counts, it's the counting of the profits."

☐ **New York:** Two athletes from Malawi, one of the smallest and least affluent teams in the Games, have been bought new gym shoes by residents of a Mississippi town (Quentin Letts writes).

The people of Hattiesburg, a town of old Southern virtues and hospitality, took pity on the Malawi marathon runners when they noticed that their kit was decidedly tatty.

John Mwathiwa and Henry Moyo, long-distance runners, arrived in Hattiesburg for pre-Olympics training ten days ago with worn shoes, shiny trousers and threadbare luggage. Almost at once they were adopted by the town. A local department store, Gayfers, presented them with gym bags and kit.

Local housewives have offered to feed the slim-built men for free, perhaps not realising that there are better preparations for Olympic marathon running than double helpings of deep-fried catfish and sticky iced tea.

STUART CLARKE



Paul D'Agnese outside the bar which he expects to make him a fortune in the 17 days of the Olympics

Running for their lives, Magazine, page 28



Abdala Bucaram, who denounced his election opponent as "the Antichrist"

Madman of Ecuador in battle with 'Antichrist'

BY DAVID ADAMS

IF ECUADOR'S election tomorrow is won by 44-year-old Abdala Bucaram, the country's next President will be, by his own admission, a madman.

But Señor Bucaram, a fiery populist whose nickname is "El Loco", says: "Crazy people speak from the heart and see with their soul what others do not see." Besides, he told one rally, his opponent is "the Antichrist".

The latest opinion polls show Señor Bucaram running neck and neck with a conservative lawyer, Jaime Nebot Saadi. Both men are of Lebanese immigrant stock, but that is where the similarities end.

Señor Bucaram is an avid sportsman who competed as a hurdler in the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. His campaign speeches are peppered with insults: he accused one opponent of having "watery sperm". At rallies he is accompanied by a Uruguayan rock band and warms up the crowd by singing *Jailhouse Rock* in Spanish.

Señor Nebot, on the other hand, relies less on rhetoric and has the backing of wealthy farmers, industrialists and bankers. That has not stopped some of his supporters from firing a few salvoes at Señor Bucaram. One of Señor Nebot's followers caused a storm when he said "El Loco" was the candidate of "pimps, prostitutes and marijuana users".

A Nebot television advertisement showed a woman who says Señor Bucaram once dropped his trousers in front of her.

Critics recall Señor Bucaram's days as Mayor of the port of Guayaquil, when he told poor voters he sympathised with their desire to scratch every Mercedes in sight. The country's weak economy could be the deciding factor, with Señor Bucaram expected to win over poor voters. "With me, we will either sink or be saved, but we will not stay the same," he tells rallies.

Relieved Clinton finds Yeltsin in mood for jokes

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON had a cheery chat about the joys of re-election with President Yeltsin, his Russian counterpart, yesterday, but did not ask him about his health "because he sounded so good".

The pair talked by telephone for about 25 minutes, mostly joking about politics. Mr Clinton said Mr Yeltsin had enjoyed a remarkable turnaround from last January when most Russians said they would not vote for him.

"He sort of took the 'Comeback Kid' label away from me," Mr Clinton told reporters, using the nickname he was given during his own 1992 political renaissance after allegations of adultery levelled at him by Gennifer Flowers.

Mr Clinton told Mr Yeltsin that he was impressed by the way he had fought back to a great victory and said it was a tribute to his tenacity, vision and courage. Mr Yeltsin returned the compliments and wished Mr Clinton luck in the American presidential election in November.

Mr Clinton was immensely relieved by Mr Yeltsin's victory. Quite apart from preferring him to the Communists, he was anxious to be spared a damaging election-year argument over "Who lost Russia?" An early warning that Mr Clinton would be blamed for a Yeltsin defeat was sounded last week by Bob Dole, his Republican challenger, who accused the President of misguidedly romanticising US-Russian relations and turning a blind eye to Russian breaches of arms-control agreements and to signals that Communist forces were building up new strength.

Mr Yeltsin's success has blunted that line of reasoning, and Mr Dole meekly joined the chorus of Americans offering congratulations, although with the qualification that democracy was not built on any one individual or even on one election.

Although Mr Clinton said that Mr Yeltsin sounded animated and well, a senior White House official who monitored the conversation said: "I don't think his voice is all the way back. Generally, he has a very robust voice when he's at his best."

Russian officials and Mrs Yeltsin have said the Russian President has been recovering from a cold, but his stilted and wooden television appearances before the election and on polling day were studied by Washington officials for signs of a recurrence of heart disease. During yesterday's call Mr Yeltsin admitted to fatigue from the campaign and said he was looking forward to taking a holiday after his inauguration on August 9.

There are no plans for another Yeltsin-Clinton summit, but the two men agreed that Vice-President Al Gore and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, would meet in Moscow at the end of next week to discuss US-Russian issues.

In Moscow yesterday, Mr Chernomyrdin said that Mr Yeltsin will announce his new Government in the next few days.

Tasmanian faces total of 35 murder charges

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THIRTY-FOUR more murder charges were laid yesterday against the man accused of Australia's worst peacetime shooting massacre. Over two days in April in Port Arthur, Tasmania, 35 people were killed and 18 wounded.

Martin Bryant, 29, faced 69 new charges in all. They included 19 counts of attempted murder, nine of grievous bodily harm, five of aggravated assault and two of arson.

Bryant, of Hobart, is still recovering from burns he suffered before his arrest. On April 30 he was charged with murdering Kate Elizabeth Scott, 21, of Western Australia.

A wooden cross bearing the victims' names has been set up on Port Arthur's foreshore.

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Canadian troops 'blindfolded Somali children'

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

THE behaviour of Canadian soldiers during a peacekeeping mission in Somalia three years ago continues to shock their countrymen.

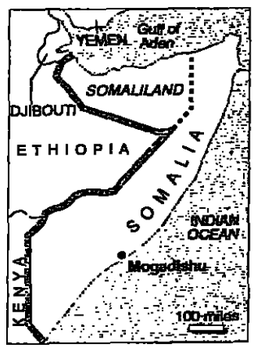
Newspapers led their front pages yesterday with a 1993 photograph showing a smiling army chaplain, Captain Mark Sargent, standing over a group of trussed and blindfolded Somali children sitting in the dirt with signs that read "I am a thief".

While there is no indication whether the captain interceded on behalf of the children, he has refused to speak publicly until he testifies later this year before a Royal Commission of Inquiry set up by the Canadian Government to investigate the Somalia affair.

The soldiers, members of the Canadian Airborne Regiment stationed in Belet Huen, were having trouble with looters at their camp so they began capturing intruders — many of them hungry children or Somali teenagers.

The inquiry is also investigating reports that soldiers deliberately baited the perimeter of the camp with food, the better to attract their prey.

Under the Geneva Convention, prisoners of war — if that is what the children were — are not to be humiliated publicly. Civilian prisoners, under Canadian military regulations, are to be turned over to military police for prosecution. There is no indication as to what happened to the children in the photograph,



taken by Corporal Michel Purnelle in April 1993.

When the corporal, now in Quebec City, tried to hand over his photograph to the inquiry earlier this year he was arrested by military police and confined to barracks for leaving his post without authority. The three civilians heading the inquiry accused military staff of impeding their work.

Other disturbing photographs have surfaced during the past year, none worse than one showing Shidane Arone, 16, bound, bleeding and battered with two Airborne soldiers — Private Kyle Brown and Corporal Clayton Matchee — standing beside him as if he were a hunting trophy. Arone was tortured and executed a few hours later.

Brown was convicted of manslaughter two years ago and sentenced to five years in jail. He is out on parole. Matchee tried to hang himself in his cell. When cut down, he had suffered brain damage caused by a reduced supply of oxygen to the brain. He has since been in an institution.

The Airborne Regiment was disbanded two years ago, the only Canadian regiment to be disbanded in disgrace.

☐ **Child witnesses:** Two children who have witnessed war horrors in Africa will address heads of state at a pan-African summit in Cameroon next week.

"The agony and the suffering of hundreds of thousands of innocent children caught in the midst of wars and hostilities is a matter of our collective concern," declared Salim Ahmed Salim, the Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Mr Salim said yesterday that a children's mini-summit co-sponsored by Unicef would take place on Saturday and Sunday before heads of state meet. The two to address the summit will be elected from a group selected for the weekend meeting from 11 African countries.

Many Africans hoped the 32nd annual OAU summit, opening in Yaoundé on Monday, would mark a significant shift in the organisation's agenda towards promoting economic integration.

But with armed conflict and a worsening refugee crisis tormenting much of the continent's population, conflict will again loom large at the conference, delegates said.

Since the OAU's last annual summit in Addis Ababa, Liberia's civil war has flared again, and the 1994 massacres in Rwanda continue to exert a contagious effect in the Great Lakes region, especially in Burundi. Finally, there is no sign of an end to the chaos in Somalia, without a government since January 1991. *(Reuter)*



The controversial undated photograph which shows the Canadian army chaplain, Captain Mark Sargent, standing over bound and blindfolded Somali children

Stress blamed as elephants attack tourists

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

A CONSERVATION debate is raging in South Africa over reports of aberrant behaviour among wild animals in local game reserves. There is speculation that it could be linked to the trade and relocation of animals in the burgeoning game reserve industry.

The debate centres on recent attacks on other animals and humans. Last week a young bull elephant at the Pilanesburg game reserve in North-West Province charged a group of tourists and killed a warden who went to shoot it: last month a rhino fatally gored a game ranger in Botswana; and earlier this year a wounded giraffe kicked to death a conservation official in the Northern Province.

Nineteen white rhinos have been killed in Pilanesburg since March by elephant herds showing increasing signs of pathological behaviour. This has included attempts to mate with rhino cows.

"It is as though the animals are beginning to bite back," an environmentalist involved in investigations at Pilanesburg told a South African newspaper. "They are being hunted, culled, captured, transported and shunted into small and closed game reserves. We may be seeing early-warning signs that conservationists may have been playing God with the animals without anticipating the consequences."

Specialists from the Rhino and Elephant Foundation in Johannesburg, a leading research institution, suggest the anti-social behaviour could be the consequence of the increase in trade and relocation of wild animals. The bull elephant at the centre of last week's tragedy was an orphan taken either from a herd in an Eastern Cape reserve or from a herd killed during the Kruger National Park's controversial culling programme of the 1980s.

Ecologists have speculated that aggressive behaviour could be a sign of the trauma and stress that the animals have been subjected to.

> "It is as if the animals are biting back after being hunted?"

The practice of culling at the Kruger National Park, a reserve approximately half the size of Wales, has been used as a way of combating over-population and involves shooting adults and moving the young to other reserves. It is suggested that the orphaned elephants were traumatised by the killing that took place around them and were adversely affected by being sent to game reserves where there were no matriarchs to care for and discipline them.

Another influencing factor, it has been suggested, is the fact that most South African game reserves, with the exception of the Kruger, are small and closed systems, unlike those in East and Central Africa.

Marion Garai, an elephant specialist, has been studying the elephants at Pilanesburg. It is she who has linked the animals' aggression to the absence of matriarchal discipline in an area with a high density of rhinos. Despite their fearsome appearance, rhino bulls are vulnerable when attacked by elephant.

Ms Garai says other factors have not been ruled out, including the possibility that the elephants' aggression may have been heightened by something in their diet.

Japan launches secretive whale hunt 'for science'

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPAN, defying international opinion, yesterday sent a fleet of whaling boats to the northwest Pacific with the aim of catching about 100 whales, ostensibly for research purposes but in reality for commercial marketing.

The two-month expedition started a week after the International Whaling Commission meeting in Aberdeen called on Japan to stop "research whaling". Officials at the Fisheries Agency in Tokyo said they were ignoring the Aberdeen resolution, which is not legally binding.

"We are not worried about the decision," said Hiromichi Ito, an agency official. "There is no international law saying we can't catch these whales."

Japan has been steadily expanding its annual catch with the intention of keeping its whaling industry in business until the ban on commercial whaling imposed by the commission in 1986 is lifted, and full-scale hunting can resume.

Last winter Japanese boats caught 440 whales in Antarctic seas designated as a sanctuary by a 1994 commission resolution. This year's total will exceed 540 whales — twice the number caught in 1988.

Details of the latest expedition, including the port of departure, were kept secret until the four vessels left Yokosuka, south of Tokyo, to avoid alerting environmental groups. The vessels are equipped with electric lances, used to kill whales after they are harpooned, which the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has condemned as "extremely cruel". Officially the crews gather data on the size of the whales, their feeding habits and migratory routes, but environmentalists say this could be achieved without slaughter on a such a scale.

However, demand from restaurants and retailers has been growing, and the carcasses are destined for Japan's dinner tables rather than to serve science. Japanese government researchers claim that since the 1986 moratorium, minke whale stocks have recovered enough to support sustainable commercial whaling.

But environmental groups say Japan's record of conserving marine resources is not encouraging. They point to the example of the bluefin tuna, which may soon join the list of endangered marine life as a result of overfishing to satisfy Japan's voracious appetite for the species.

Sudan expels rights monitor after harassment by agents

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A RIGHTS monitor has been expelled from southern Sudan after complaining that she was constantly shadowed by security men while trying to investigate alleged abuses in the civil war-stricken region.

Jemera Rone, of the Human Rights Watch organisation, was not allowed to speak privately to anyone, including the local Roman Catholic Archbishop, during a visit to the garrison town of Juba. She was also barred from visiting the market and from staying at the United Nations compound in the town as she had planned, and forced instead to stay at the government-controlled El Salaam hotel.

Ms Rone was constantly accompanied by security personnel. "When she protested, they terminated her visit and escorted her to the airport," Human Rights Watch says in a damning 340-page report on the largest country in Africa.

The torture of people held incommunicado in "ghost houses" is widespread, the organisation says, while "the lack of prosecution of Sudan security agents and army personnel for torture and murder continues to be the norm".

Human Rights Watch paints a bleak picture of a country of 27 million people where women and children in the south are regularly captured by government troops and then sold as household slaves in the north.

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Closed minds prevail on 'open' frontier



James Pringle, beginning a series of reports from the Sino-Russian border, finds official paranoia remains in Tongjiang despite burgeoning trade



State secret: a view of Tongjiang's main street that edgy Chinese authorities wanted to hide. The area was once forbidden to Westerners

NUCLEAR war almost began in 1969 here in northern Manchuria, and for 30 years the Sino-Soviet border in the Far East was the world's most dangerous and sensitive frontier, with huge communist armies facing each other across the rivers that divide them.

But with the collapse of Soviet communism and free-market reforms in China, tensions are now slowly easing and cross-border trade is growing.

The dark, grey-metallic Amur River at Tongjiang has little to tempt the traveller to linger on its muddy banks. It seems as devoid of character as the grimy island half a mile offshore that belongs to Russia and is called No Name by the Chinese. Viewed through binoculars, the beach fronting a copse of birch trees is bleak and empty. Beyond, on the Russian bank, there are few settlements: for past fear of attack, these were built deeper inside Siberia. "We think it is uninhabited," says Xue Bao Yi. Communist party vice-secretary of Tongjiang, standing in suit and tie, and sporting a gold watch with a diamond-studded rim, looking out at No Name island. When a reporter raises a camera to take a picture of a moored Chinese patrol boat, the crew yell and a security man puts a hand across the lens.



There is no reason why the area should have a carefree atmosphere. Both this vast river, which was once explored by marauding Cossacks, and its tributary, the Ussuri, which form the Sino-Russian border in Siberia and the Russian Far East, have been the barrier since the late 1950s that kept the feuding giants apart — and an occasional battleground.

In 1969, on Damanski island (Zhenbao in Chinese) in the Ussuri, there was a fight between Chinese and Russian troops that started with fists, graduated to small arms, escalated to tank and artillery fire — and might have ended with a nuclear war had not Richard Nixon warned Leonid Brezhnev that the US "would not remain indifferent" to a Soviet attack on China. Next to the Cuban missile crisis, many observers believe, this was the moment that the world came closest to nuclear war.

Brezhnev believed Chinese armies were poised to invade from Manchuria, as China's cold north-eastern provinces were formerly called. Mao Tse-tung, expecting a Soviet nuclear strike, ordered Chinese in Harbin, capital of China's northernmost province of Heilongjiang, and in Peking itself, to "dig deep tunnels and store grain everywhere".

"Both sides were preparing for war, and boats sped on collision courses along the same line of navigation," said a retired fishing boat captain, You Yu Fa, 61, of the tiny Hezhen minority near here. "The Russians had cannon but Chairman Mao sent us rifles and machineguns. It was very tense but we were not afraid. We were ready for them."

Since Mikhail Gorbachev helped to reduce border tensions in the late 1980s, river navigation has resumed, though slowly, and in places there are busy trading markets. Negotiators are now demarcating this remote and sensitive border which is still in dispute in some areas.

There still remains a kind of unease here, particularly in this drab industrial town of 50,000 people to which the Foreign Ministry brought a group of correspondents for a glimpse of a once-forbidden frontier. It is a sensitive area because, as on the Russian side, there are believed to be large labour camps in northern Heilongjiang, and Peking's current "Strike Hard" campaign to combat crime and corruption is in full swing with a spate of executions that has reached even this remote spot.

Three years ago, large Chinese gangs attacked trains not just on the Chinese side but on the Trans-Siberian Railway that runs parallel to the border in Moscow's Jewish autonomous region that faces Tongjiang. In winter, the Amur is frozen 3ft thick and trucks can easily cross. But supposedly these mafia gangs had been smashed earlier. Now, local Tongjiang officials entertain correspondents to a series of banquets, serving caviare from Amur sturgeon and raising endless glasses of grain liquor and speaking of how "Tongjiang is open for business" and is looking for Western investment. Joint ventures with Russia, after all, are limited in scope, given the parlous economy there. Mr Xue speaks of how "in a very short time we have come to know one another very well and established a relationship that will endure". There is a seemingly endless concert in a hotel disco and hostesses are called into the service of the State and the party to invite the visitors to dance. It is exhausting — and perhaps meant to be.

> Bulky men pushed us back inside the hotel's lobby

For, despite protestations of friendship and openness, when I and another correspondent tried to leave our hotel at 10.30pm to take a stroll down Tongjiang's darkened main street, security men quickly stepped in to order us back. When we persisted, several of these bulky types, some in uniform and some in civilian clothes, roughly pushed us back inside the lobby of the hotel and made it clear greater force would be used to stop us walking in the town that was now "open for business".

Asked if we were being detained in the hotel, we were told this was not the case. "Tongjiang port is open but the streets are closed to foreigners," was the first explanation. Then came a second: "Members of this kind of group cannot go out at night as individuals." Nor was the situation much better next morning when snooping security men followed other reporters into nearby small shops, an intimidating presence for ordinary Chinese here who had little incentive to chat.

☐ **Test treaty:** President Jiang Zemin of China called for the rapid conclusion of a global nuclear test ban treaty and said Peking wanted a deal struck by the end of this year. "China always stands for complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and endorses a comprehensive test ban," Mr Jiang told Kazakhstan's parliament during a three-day state visit.

"China is ready to join other countries in working for the conclusion within this year of a fair, reasonable and verifiable treaty with universal adherence and unlimited duration," he said to warm applause. His conciliatory remarks carried extra weight in a country which staged nearly 500 nuclear blasts under Soviet rule, only to abandon nuclear weapons after independence in 1991. Kazakhstan also borders China's restive Xinjiang province, where continued testing at the Lop Nor range has drawn international condemnation. *(Reuter)*

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Patten critic says 'lame duck' rule bad for business

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

ONE of Peking's main supporters in Hong Kong and an implacable critic of Chris Patten, the Governor, yesterday described the colonial Government as a "caretaker" and accused Mr Patten of being "ineffective".

James Tien, speaking to the Foreign Correspondents' Club, said that, "because right now we do not have a decision-maker, it certainly does not look good for investment and business opportunities over the next year". He agreed with a questioner that the administration, which passes sovereignty to China on July 1, 1997, was a "lame duck".

One of Mr Tien's closest allies, Henry Tang, speaking on the same programme, admitted people in Hong Kong were uneasy about the future because "you are handing [Hong Kong] over to a system where they [China] have no previous history of running a place so vastly different".

Mr Tang said that until June 30, 1997, "China has a right to oversee our interests in the name of transition, but suddenly on July 1, 1997, we're going to tell the Chinese to take a walk whenever there are issues that we consider our own".

Mr Tien is the chairman of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Legislative Council, and was appointed by Peking last year to the 150-member Preparatory Committee that is establishing Hong Kong's post-1997 government.

Last week, at an assembly of businessmen and lawyers, Mr Tien declared Hong Kong was not ready for democracy, equal opportunity laws or strict environmental controls.

Opinion polls here register little confidence in the Preparatory Committee to which Mr Tien belongs, giving far more, though dwindling, support to Mr Patten.

Communist legacy, page 22

Glitterati party at star's Manila prison nuptials

Manila: Five Philippines senators and dozens of other celebrities went to prison yesterday — not as inmates but as guests at the wedding of one of the country's most popular film stars. Robin Padilla is serving a sentence of 17-21 years for weapons possession. His marriage in prison to Liezl Sicangco, his girlfriend, was proclaimed the country's "wedding of the year" by the press. The couple's three daughters served as flower girls. Fifteen caterers and waiters served the 133 guests, including diplomats from several nations, as 12 musicians entertained them. *(AP)*

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Socialists embarrassed by capitalist crusader who paid bribes, then told all

Mayor raises Costa storm

MARBELLA FILE
by TUNKU VARADARAJAN



BEHIND Marbella's white-washed walls and wealth, its sparkling streets (picked clean of dirt and delinquents by squads working round the clock), and its reputation as a resort for peseta-packed Arabs, stands a rough, bull-necked Spanish institution. His name is Jesús Gil y Gil.

Señor Gil is Marbella's Mayor and the most powerful man on the Costa del Sol. Since the *Costa* attracts more tourists per year than the rest of mainland Spain put together, he is one of King Juan Carlos's most significant subjects. Add to that his ownership of Atlético de Madrid (the football club which won this year's league), his hatred of the press, and the suits pending against him in the courts, and one has the outline of a man who arouses passions like few others.

For every Spaniard who hates Señor Gil — and there are many of them — there is probably another who will go to the trenches for him. He is adored in Marbella, which he has run brilliantly since 1991, and if his enemies regard him as an officious bully, his supporters see him as an Iberian cross between a Wild West sheriff, a crusader for capitalism and Father Christmas.

Señor Gil's greatest virtue, however, is his ability to enliven Spanish life (which, contrary to the Carmen-and-sangría myths in Britain, can be intensely stuffy and pompous). Hardly a week passes without reports of some "Gil affair" or other. In the latest storm last week, Señor Gil has accused members of the Socialist regional government of taking nearly £500,000 in bribes in June 1986, for the granting of building permission in Marbella.

But behold the panache of the man. Who was it who paid the bribe and who was it who wished to build? By his own impudent admission, it was Señor Gil himself. Marbella's Mayor cannot be prosecuted for suborning an official because of a new statute of limitations for certain money-related offences.

Instead, the Spanish Socialist Party, already reeling unsteadily in opposition, has a new embarrassment to cope with. Wags are already saying that the Socialists are facing their worst nightmare in "Gil and Gal" — the latter being the anti-Eta death squads which the Socialists ran when in power.

Señor Gil does not like Communists, Socialists, and anyone else who crosses him. His stock phrase, when enraged, is *hijo de puta*, or "son of a bitch".

Earlier this year he punched a fellow football club boss — of the Galician club Santiago de Compostela — for saying on the radio that the people of Marbella were "stupid for voting for that man Gil". The incident, which occurred in public, shocked Spain, but Señor Gil was unrepentant. "I was only doing my duty," he said later. "He should have shown more respect for the people of Marbella."



Jesús Gil y Gil: a talent for amusing and shocking his fellow Spaniards

Banking on a super-seller

READING matter is distinctly scarce on the Costa del Sol, and holidaymakers are advised to come forearmed.

Marbella and Estepona have no proper bookshops, though Fuengirola has secondhand establishments where browsers can pick up tattered copies of James Hadley Chase and Corin Tellado, Spain's own Barbara Cartland.

But for most Spaniards on the beach this year there is only one book to take, a non-fiction "thriller" called Vendetta. At 580 pages, it should keep most readers busy for a fortnight. In it the author, Ernesto Ekaizer, lays bare the audacious culture of Spain's dodgy super-bankers of the 1980s. Out this week, it is moving well, as they say in the trade.

Life is a beach for Yeltsin's bikini voters

EVER since the municipality of Marbella decided to open a tourist office in Moscow in 1994 — "to attract members of the incipient capitalist society", as it was then explained — the Costa del Sol has counted among its residents hundreds of pale-skinned men and women with Slavic cheekbones and Russian accents.

Los rusos were out in force on Wednesday, the day of the second round of their country's presidential poll, voting with verve at the "electoral college" in a Torremolinos hotel.

It was a hot morning and several arrived to cast their ballots in bikinis or briefs. Most voted for Boris Yeltsin, although some could not disguise their support for Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the right-wing nationalist.

One couple, in identical Viva España T-shirts and tanga-style bottoms, said with a smile that "Señor Gil y Gil [Marbella's Mayor] would make a great President for Russia".

The Russians are a popular presence on the Costa del Sol, although many resent the mafia stereotyping that dogs them in the Spanish press.

The locals, however, could not care less about that. "We love them," said a barman in Marbella. "The men, they like to drink, and the ladies, they are so friendly."

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Madrid pressed to reinstate sacked state TV journalist

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

PRESSURE is mounting on the Spanish Government to reconsider its recent sacking of a senior journalist on the state-owned RTVE network.

José Antonio Martínez Soler, Spanish television's New York correspondent, attributes his dismissal to a provocative pre-election interview in February with José Maria Aznar, now the Prime Minister but then the opposition leader.

Señor Martínez, arguing that his dismissal is "an anti-constitutional political reprisal", scoffs at the official reason given, that RTVE's considerable debts needed "urgent rationalisation and a pruning of personnel".

The journalist has secured an unlikely ally in the conservative daily *ABC*, more usually an enthusiastic Aznar government supporter. In an editorial last week, the newspaper called for the reinstatement of Señor Martínez, declaring that "no one should be discriminated against in Spain for his political ideas".

Many observers, while critical of the sacking, have recalled that the Socialists inflicted on RTVE "a night of the long knives" when they first came to power in 1982. By comparison, the present Government has been a model of restraint.

Señor Martínez has also written to King Juan Carlos, putting his case to the Spanish monarch — a move that has earned him the criticism of some fellow journalists.

In a letter published yesterday in Madrid's *El Mundo*, Santiago López Castillo, a television news director sacked in a wide-ranging purge by the Socialist Government in 1983, chided him for losing his sense of proportion.



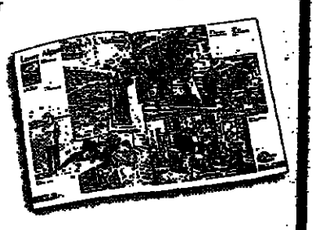
Aznar: provoked by a pre-poll interview

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■ OPINION

Without regular exposure on television the Royal Opera House will remain elitist



■ THEATRE

The Young Vic* makes fine work of Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night

THE TIMES ARTS



■ BASE NOTES

Thumbs up: this sculpture has just won its creator a share in Japan's biggest art prize



■ BASE NOTES

Butler in the news: Lloyd Webber's revised *By Jeeves* books its passage to America

Time to grasp nettles in the Garden

One day I shall make my fortune by inventing a board game called *Darling! How Could You?*. Players would rise or fall in a fictitious showbiz world by tackling a series of classic career dilemmas. For instance: you are Britain's most glamorous leading man, with a stunning girlfriend, millions of adoring fans and the world's top directors offering you choice roles. Do you a) do everything you can to hang on to this enviable collection; or b) engage in a momentary but momentous dalliance with a lady of easy virtue in a public street?

"Darling! How could you?" all the other players would shriek, as the correct answer is revealed and you collect your forfeit card ("Go directly to jail. Do not pass *Hello!* Do not collect £20 million"). But some other dilemmas would be much less clear-cut.

Here's one that occurred to me this week. You are executive director of the National Theatre, the top woman administrator in all luvviedom. Trevor Nunn has just been appointed as artistic director. Do you a) look forward to years of sorting out the jolly japes that seem to occur whenever Twinkling Trev comes into close proximity with a subsidised theatre company; or b) accept the job of running Covent Garden, that Titanic among opera houses.

You have to admit, it's a toughie. But we know now what choice Genista McIntosh has made. She has elected to preside over Britain's most bitterly-resented building site: the Royal Opera House development. She must charm about £100 million out of Covent Garden's super-rich patrons to pay for the damn thing. She must keep the opera and ballet in business for two years without a real home. And she must ensure that swarms of builders, surveyors and architects conclude their arcane manoeuvres sometime before she picks up her old-age pension.

But that's the easy bit. The hard part comes when Covent Garden's new chief executive asks herself some basic questions. Like, what is the Royal Opera House for? Is a lottery award of £78 million, plus annual subsidy of £20 million and rising, handed out simply to underwrite the pleasures of people who can already afford £80, £100 or £150 tickets? Is Covent Garden ever going to grow up and become a real *national* institution?

The answer is obvious, at least to you and me. Somehow, Covent Garden must get its product on show to far more people from a far wider social range. Not to do so, after pocketing so much public dosh, would be immoral. When the theatre reopens in 1999 a top ticket price of £60 (roughly comparable with West End musicals) will be essential. Every piece of planning — repertoire, casting, pay structures, commercial letting, sponsorship — must now be dictated by that figure.

WEEK IN THE ARTS



RICHARD MORRISON

But bringing down ticket prices isn't enough. If Covent Garden is to break through into popular esteem, its productions must appear on television. Not once a year (if you are lucky), but every month. McIntosh knows that; her predecessor, Jeremy Isaacs, knew it (of course he did; he *was* Mr Cultured Face of Television); and so did his predecessor.

So why hasn't it happened? Well, here I must distress left-wing chums ... not that I have many left. Covent Garden wimpishly tolerates the greatest farrago of restrictive working practices since the "heyday" of Fleet Street. Three unions — Bectu, Equity and the Musicians — control everything that breathes. Their rulebooks are as thick as bricks and twice as inflexible. And many of the rules are a load of old Kobbé: more Spanish practices than *Carmen*; and as apt for modern theatres as a sackbut in *Tosca*.

The greatest obstacles are reserved for those who naively offer to broadcast productions. A television company can write off £300,000 in "extra payments" to union members before it can think of broadcasting a *Traviata*. And that's just for the UK rights.

This must change. Either Covent Garden must enter into a once-and-for-all negotiation to "buy out" the TV rights of its staff. Or the unions must be bypassed, and an orchestra, chorus and ballet recruited on individual contracts according to age, talent and beauty. That would, of course, be highly invidious — but this is supposed to be showbiz, not a rest home.

Either way, Covent Garden's managers are drinking in the last-chance Crush Bar. If these things are not sorted out during closure, they never will be. Across the Channel the terrible example of the Bastille Opera looms. There, archaic working practices were carried over into a new opera house, with disastrous results.

The question is whether McIntosh has the clout or indeed the desire to grasp the nettle. Her impeccably liberal background — York University sociology studies under Laurie Taylor; Labour activist; 24 years working in the pink-tinted world of subsidised theatre — is not immediately encouraging. Nor are newspaper reports that her appointment was greeted with "euphoria" inside Covent Garden.

But does she really want to run a rich person's club with an upmarket cabaret? Does she want to exclude Covent Garden from the myriad broadcasting opportunities of the 21st century? That's her fate if she doesn't make the nasty decisions that have been ducked for decades.

But nobody said it would be easy. On balance, I think I might have stayed with Twinkling Trev.

Family misfortune

THEATRE

Long Day's Journey into Night
Young Vic

Yes, it is a long journey, three hours and 40 minutes in all. But for once it leads to something remarkably similar to night. English revivals of Eugene O'Neill notoriously tend to soften his emotional impact. The production Laurence Boswell has brought from Plymouth to London does not lack the discipline and intelligence for which we pride, or preen, ourselves this side of the Atlantic, but it has a dark intensity too. It is recognisably a journey into the murky memories that haunted O'Neill all his life.

His widow described how he emerged from the study where he was writing *Long Day's Journey* "gaunt and sometimes weeping, his eyes red, and looking ten years older than when he went in". Such was the effect on the ageing playwright of recalling the mother who became a drug addict after giving birth to him, the father who won fame as a romantic actor but never fulfilled his ambitions, the elder brother already sunk deep into the bitterness and alcohol that were to kill him, and, fourth and last, himself at a time when it looked as if he might succumb to TB. He named the family the Tyrones, but in every particular they were the O'Neills.

Just to add to the feeling that the play was "written in tears and blood", as its dedication claimed, O'Neill telescoped time as tightly as the severest of neo-Classical dramatists. Within just 12 hours Mary resumes the morphine habit the others thought she had beaten, Edmund gets his ominous diagnosis from the doctors, James Jr goes on a big bender, and James Sr acknowledges his disappointments over a whisky bottle.

For all the family, but especially for Mary, the past is more real than the present or future. It is unalterable and determines everything, yet it is the subject of unending dispute, for if only this character had been wiser or that one more generous, all might be different now. The past obsesses and it creates unmanageable guilts and resentments.

None of the actors makes a grab for our sympathy, but each has the sensitivity and skill to make us see his or her point of view. We feel for Paul Rhys's shrill, anxious Edmund, for Richard Johnson's James Sr, a genial, caring man out of his emotional depth, even for James Jr, though Mark Lambert is better at conveying the decency behind the cynicism than at playing drunkenness. Above all, we feel for Mary, manipulative and self-pitying though she is.

Actually, Penelope Wilton catches much more than that. She starts quietly, hinting at trouble with a nervous rub of her hands or scratch at her face, and then ups the tempo, pacing and jabbering and betraying the truth with a bleak, cut-off look here, a sudden, alarming snarl of anger there. The picture she presents is of a basically sensible woman succumbing to irrepressible demons and, even in the mad scene that ends the play, knowing she is doing so. Could anything be sadder, or truer to O'Neill? No, not really.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL



Darkness falls: Paul Rhys as Edmund and Penelope Wilton as Mary in O'Neill's harrowing *Long Day's Journey into Night*

BASE NOTES

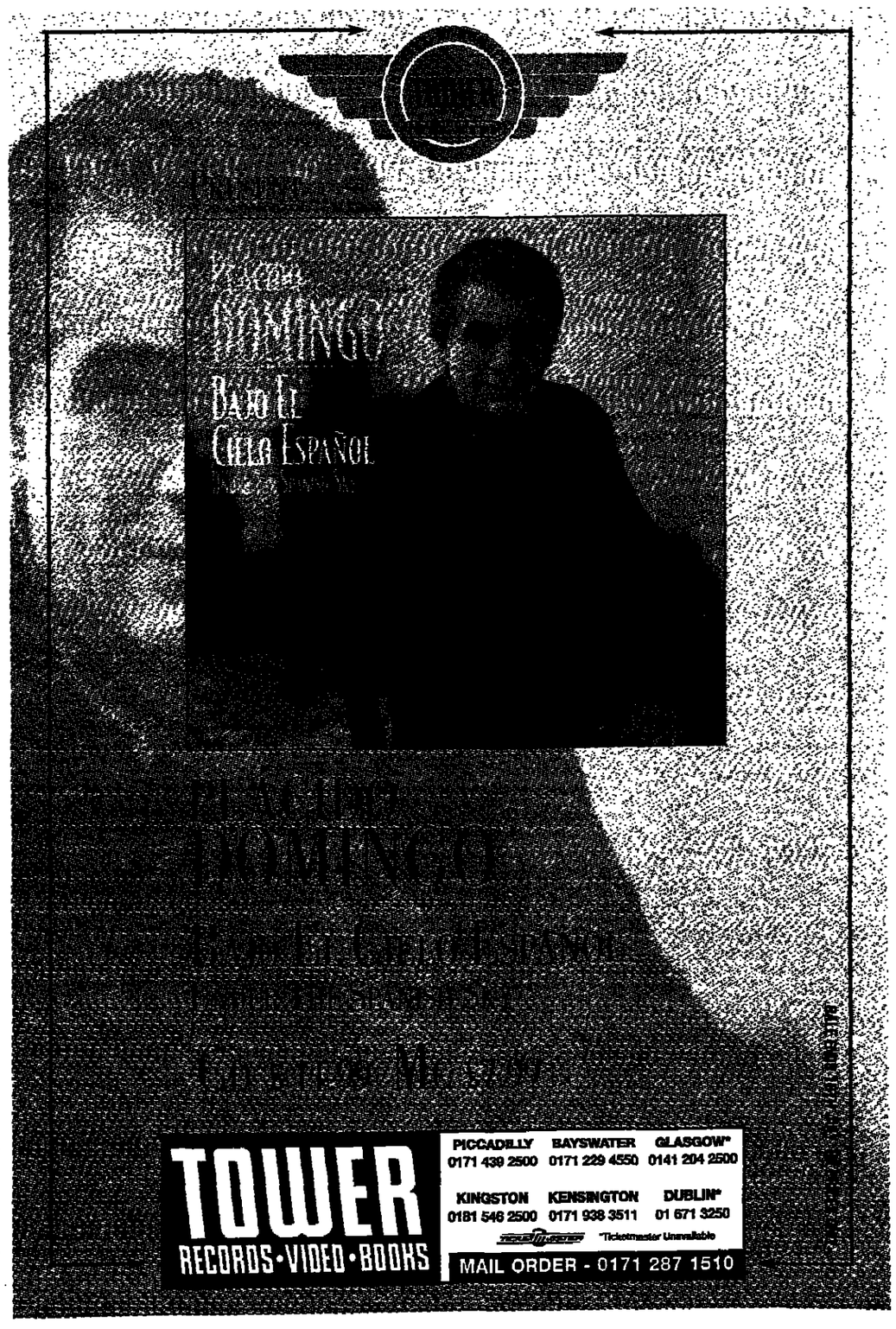
WHILE most British musicals wait a season or more before opening in America, the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Alan Ayckbourn show *By Jeeves* has scheduled a speedy American debut for the autumn at the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut. The musical, to be directed there, as here, by Ayckbourn, starts performances on October 17 in the Norma Terris theatre, the smaller of Goodspeed's two venues. No word yet of a New York transfer, but this musical may well be too narrowly English for large-scale American consumption.

● WHAT must be one of the most lucrative arts prizes in the world has named its 1996 winners. The Praemium Imperiale Arts Awards, sponsored by the Japan Art Association and announced at the Louvre in Paris this week, honour artists in the fields of painting, sculpture, architecture, music and theatre/film with a prize of 15 million yen each — approximately £90,000. This year the recipients are **Cy Twombly** (painting), **César** (sculpture), **Tadao Ando** (architecture), **Luciano Berio** (music) and **Andrzej Wajda** (theatre/film).

● A NEW arts centre for the disabled is to be built in Surrey, thanks to the National Lottery. **Richard Stilgoe's** Orpheus Trust has been awarded £2 million to build the centre, at Godstone, which will run courses in music theatre, drama, dance, songwriting, recording and video. The buildings, based around the lyricist's old home and the 17th-century barn, will be completely accessible so that disabled and able-bodied people can perform together on equal terms.

● THE new director of the Hayward Gallery on the South Bank in London is to be an American, **Susan Ferleger Brades**, who has been the deputy director at the gallery for the past three years. She worked at the Guggenheim Museum in New York before coming to London in 1978. Since 1980 she has been on the staff of the Hayward, where she has organised many of its largest exhibitions.







■ OPERA 1

From page to stage: Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-5* is turned into an opera



■ OPERA 2

Simon Rattle and his orchestra triumph in a new Paris staging of Janáček's *Jenufa*

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC

Controversy in the cathedral: Delius's *A Mass of Life* is sung in St Paul's



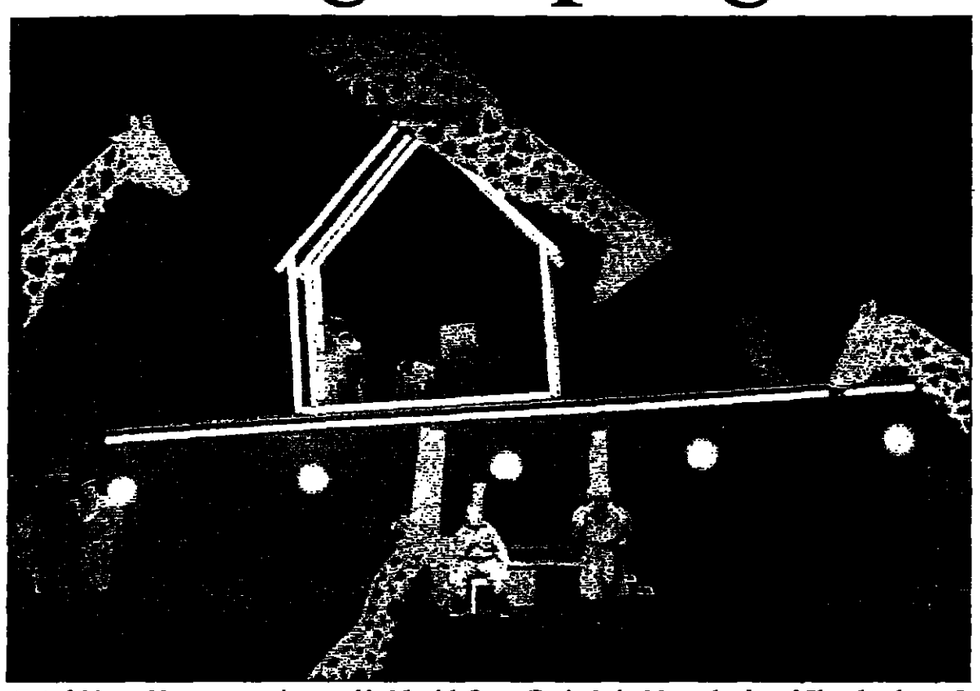
■ NEXT WEEK

Times critics review the Eagles on tour, and the first night of *Martin Guerre*

MUSIC AND OPERA: Muddled spectacle in a Munich abattoir; Rattle shakes up Paris; St Paul's too big for Delius and Nietzsche

Pilgrim's tangled progress

Slaughterhouse-5
Munich State Opera



Out of this world: no expense is spared in Munich Opera Festival's lavish production of *Slaughterhouse-5*

The usually rather staid Munich Opera Festival opened on Monday with the world premiere of a challenging new work. Hans-Jürgen von Bose's *Schlachthof-5*, commissioned following the success of the composer's prize-winning *o3 Dream Palace* at the Biennale three years ago. It was a slap-up occasion, sponsored by BMW and attended by the great and good of Bavaria, who gave it a rousing reception. Which is not to disguise one or two problems with the piece.

Bose's own libretto is closely — too closely — based on Kurt Vonnegut's haunting novel about the effect of the bombing of Dresden on the psyche of an American soldier. It is so crammed with novelistic detail that anyone unfamiliar with the source might have difficulty following the action, and neither the gallows humour nor the paragraph-by-paragraph cross-cutting between time and place that work so well on the page transfer easily to the stage. With as many as 30 named roles, not all of them properly developed, there is a distinct air of incoherence despite a framework of two Evangelist narrators, one a high tenor (Claes H. Ahnsjö is marvellous), the other largely a spoken role: the piece emerges as part Bach Passion, part *This Is Your Life*, and the general impression is of the libretto governing the music rather than vice versa.

There is a similar overgenerosity about the score, which does not contain quite enough Bose. He has an agreeable gift for pastiche, parody and the knowing quote, and all too often when he builds up his own head of approachably modernist steam, he breaks off into a period dance number, a slab of Purcell (why?), a glancing reference to *Rosenkavalier* or *Tristan*, mock Mozart, mock Donizetti and even lengthy quotes from *The Pirates of Penzance*.

In what should be a pivotal scene — the PoW protagonist's journey to Dresden by cattle truck — Bose's fine, theatrical music is interlarded with imitation Bach and the overall effect is fatally compromised. All the way through more than three hours in the theatre, obvious cuts suggested themselves *fortissimo*: maybe they will be made when the piece is revived later in the year.

The opera could hardly have had a more generous send-off. Inevitably Eike Gramss's production echoed the incoherence of what he was given, but he marshalled his cast of hundreds expertly and Gottfried Pilz's multi-hued, all-flying, all-dancing designs guaranteed never a dull moment visually. Heaven knows what it can have cost — it was a spectacle on a scale we do not see here — and it certainly demonstrated a managerial vote of confidence in new work.

Ultimately the hero of the evening was Paul Daniel, ENO's music director designate, who controlled the fidgety, enormously complex score with clear-headed authority.

The protagonist, Billy Pilgrim, is divided into two, and both Uwe Schönbeck as the old, dotty Billy and Martin Gantner as his young, tormented alter ego were superb. And at least the plethora of small roles gave the State Opera's ensemble ample opportunity to shine.

RODNEY MILNES

Perfect in every detail

Jenufa
Paris

SIMON RATTLE has had his triumphs in the opera house as well as the concert hall, but surely nothing of such proportions as the acclaim which greeted his conducting of *Jenufa* at the Théâtre du Châtelet. It is impossible to imagine Janáček's score finding a more sympathetic interpretation, not only by a uniformly inspired cast but also by an orchestra which plays for him like no other ensemble could.

Unfortunately, there are no plans to record the production, to revive it at the Châtelet or to transfer it elsewhere. And it clearly would travel: Stéphane Braunschweig's admirably economical staging would look good anywhere. Setting it on a plain grey floor and between curving black walls of variable geometry, he excluded anything which could distract attention from his burningly sharp focus on the emotional issues. There were a few symbolic sensations — the black snow that fell on the baby's cot, the whirling intrusion of the blood-red mill-wheel on Kostelnicka's moral crisis in the second act, the cruelly bright light signalling her extinction in the third — but the basis of the production is Braunschweig's rare perception in characterisation.

The audience's clear favourite in this respect is Anja Silja's Kostelnicka which, in its revelation of the compassion in the woman, is certainly a performance to rank alongside her Glyndebourne Emilia Marty.

No less revelatory is Philip Langridge's Laca, which is a compelling study in jealousy, frustration and infinite tenderness. As Jenufa herself, Nancy Gustafson radiates not only sincerity and devotion but also the inner strength which so frightens her cousin Steva (a sharply observed performance by Graham Clark).

Any impresario moved to prolong the life of the production after its six performances at the Châtelet must insist, however, on the participation of Rattle and preferably that of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The conducting and the playing are both distinguished by a (in my experience) unique eloquence. Sung in Czech and surtitled in French, the opera would be comprehensible in detail to anyone with neither language: every expressive intention in the orchestral part is realised with such sensitivity and such precision that it hurts.

GERALD LARNER

Man proposes, God disperses

A Mass of Life
St Paul's/Radio 3

SOME doubts had been voiced that St Paul's Cathedral, as a centre of Christian worship, was a proper place for the City of London Festival to perform Delius's *A Mass of Life*, with its setting of Nietzsche's text in praise of pantheistic paganism. In the event, the setting proved less than apt, but for scientific reasons rather than dogma.

The cavernous resonance under the dome meant that voices and orchestra were too often submerged in a kind of musical minestrone, from which occasional elements could be plucked more or less at random. Richard Hickox conducted with sensible pace and control, and was notably successful in drawing some fine-toned playing from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in the exquisite instrumental preludes to the various choral sections, for which the Bournemouth Symphony Chorus had been audibly well schooled in the German text.

In any case the objections to Nietzsche dwindle away when it is realised that it was the poet and not the philosopher in him that kindled the composer's imagination. The joy of life is suffused with a mystical melancholy in Delius's conception of the world as an eternal recurrence of beauty that vanishes, and he would have us share the mystery.

The baritone Peter Coleman-Wright propounded Zarathustra's utterances with magnificent verbal resilience and warmth of feeling, as well as an unforced dignity that gave his solos a commanding focus. Joan Rodgers was a golden-voiced soprano. Jean Rigby a plush contralto of eloquent character and Nigel Robson a tenor of fine-grained fervour.

NOEL GOODWIN

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■ POP

Symbolically yours: Prince (if we may) reveals a few hopes and dreams



■ RECITAL

Veteran sitar virtuoso Ravi Shankar gives the Barbican a serene evening of unadorned ragas

THE TIMES ARTS



■ RISING STAR

A 16-year-old from Moss Side has her play produced at Manchester's Contact Theatre



■ GOING OUT

Those tenors at Wembley, and all the other top events: see Weekend, pages 14, 15

The slave we know as Prince tells **David Sinclair** why his new album is his last (for Warners, anyway)

The man with no name has no label



So, what gets your motor running, Princeman? "I am energised by music. Music is my reason for existence. Writing it, playing it, listening to it"

The man with the most celebrated identity crisis in pop is installed on the 48th floor of a Manhattan hotel. The lift goes up so fast your ears pop. A security guard opens the door, and there he is. Dressed from head to toe in black he sits like a crow in his cold, remote eyrie high above the city. It is the middle of the afternoon, but his face is immaculately made up and his high-maintenance hairstyle scraped and greased into extravagant shape. The near-stiletto heels on his boots are at least three inches high. His handshake is firm, and when he eventually speaks his voice is deep and well modulated.

> The older I get the closer I am to where I'm going

The musician that most people still call Prince, even if his entourage fearfully avoids calling him anything at all, has a new record out on Monday called *Chaos and Disorder*. Nothing unusual about that. Apart from 1993, he has released one and sometimes two albums of new material every year since 1978, a staggering output by the standards of today's pop superstars (over the same period, Michael Jackson has released just five new albums).

Musically, *Chaos and Disorder* is nothing out of the ordinary either. Another rich stew of roller-coaster funk riffs and spiky harmonies leavened by a couple of pretty pop tunes — including the single, *Dinner with Dolores* — it is defined mostly by a rather more solid dose of princely guitar soloing than is the norm.

What does make this album special is that it is his last with his group, the New Power Generation, and his last for Warner Bros, marking the end of an artist/record company squabble that has been as intense as that between George Michael and Sony. "I have decided to part company with Warners, but surprisingly we're now on the most amicable terms that we've been for a long time," he says.

So the man with no name now has no group and no record contract. He obviously still feels a strong sense of injustice about Warners owning the mechanical copyright of his recordings, despite having negotiated and signed a contract (reported to be worth $100 million to him) as recently as 1992. "I'm not free to write and record with who I want," he says. "If I wanted to write a song with you I could not do it."

Yet he is fantastically vague when it comes to discussing the nuts and bolts of the dispute. Part of the problem apparently stemmed from Warners' reluctance to release the sheer volume of work he is capable of producing, for fear of flooding the market. You can see the company's point.

Prince's writing and recording habits are prolific to the point of profligacy. He tells me he wrote three songs the day before. Two of these were "worked on" in a recording studio session that ended at 5am. He has hundreds of unreleased songs in the vaults. He has written a full-blown orchestral symphony but does not know what will become of it. He cannot even remember whether or not he wrote any original material specifically for the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago's *Billboards* show featuring his music, which has caused a sensation in the American dance world and is coming to the Festival Hall next month. "I am energised by music," he says. "Music is my reason for existence. Writing it, playing it, listening to it."

Interviews, however, seem to have the opposite effect on him. A mixture of extreme shyness and overweening arrogance, he is an erratic and unforthcoming conversationalist. On February 14 he married his former backing singer and dancer Mayte, who is expecting his baby. But any talk of their relationship is strictly off-limits ("Too personal," he says, as if admonishing a naughty child.) He will not discuss the lyrics of his songs. "Once they are on that record they are yours to make what you want of them. I don't want to spoil the process by explaining what I think they are about."

He will not say if he is negotiating a new recording contract and has no plans to tour. Despite finding himself at a significant watershed both in his personal and professional life, he does not wish to dwell on the past and will not talk about the future at all. Perhaps, at the age of 38, he is feeling threatened by the prospect of growing older.

"Not at all. I love growing older. You can figure things out quicker because you've seen how things happen in the past and so you know what results a certain action will have. Also, the older I get the closer I am to where I'm going, which is a better place."

This is the only point at which he begins to get at all animated. "We all have a purpose within us. We are all put here for a reason. My talent is God-given, but the music is made by me. I make the choices that produce the music." He starts to sound like a preacher, an image reinforced by his long, black frock-coat and the big gold cross-cum-arrow which dangles from his neck.

A lot of cosmic waffle ensues. He insists I should read a book called *Embraced by the Light* by Betty Eadie, which is about near-death experiences, and then I will fully understand what he is talking about. But he goes all coy when asked if he has had any near-death experiences himself: "That's too psychological." Interviewing him is like trying to shake hands with a shadow.

He changed his name in 1993 because his spirit told him to. Was he pleased that he had done it? "Absolutely." Would he consider changing it again? "Yes, if I was instructed to. I just do what I'm told."

● *Chaos and Disorder is released by Warner Bros on Monday*

WORLD MUSIC

Sitar heroics

RAVI SHANKAR has appeared in many guises over the past half century — orchestral collaborator, jazz improviser, film and ballet composer and all-round cross-cultural ambassador. At the Barbican, he returned to the core elements in a serene recital of unadorned ragas.

What unites both his traditional and westernised compositions is their irrepressible vitality. Even on the sombre evening raga *Marwa* — from the recent four-disc career retrospective, *In Celebration* — his rhapsodic sitar ultimately moves from darkness to an affirmation of the pulse of life.

Ravi Shankar
Barbican

The impersonal contours of the Barbican are hardly the ideal venue for such profoundly meditative music. The scent of incense in the auditorium could not quite dispel that familiar airport-terminal ambience. Shankar's beatific presence nevertheless quickly drew his audience into the heart of each performance.

Accompanied by the drone of a bass and treble tanpura, he deployed his most luxuriant lines on the introductory *alap* section, the majestic setting steadily gathering momentum with the understated entrance in the *gat* sequence of the tabla player Bikram Ghosh. As the pace increased further, Shankar's string of percussive bent notes and dramatic shifts in register were marks of a hard-won technique that seems unsullied by the passing years.

The flurry of tones and microtones contrasted with the calm reticence of his teenage daughter, Anoushka. Responding with deftly chosen phrases, she tiptoed reverently behind her father as he descended deeper into the labyrinth of pure rhythm.

The second half of the evening brought a slightly looser thematic structure, the players encouraged to ad-lib with extracts from folk songs and other sources. Father and daughter floated free in an enthralling, good-natured duel, one break swiftly following another and all crowned by an extraordinarily expressive but self-disciplined solo from Ghosh.

CLIVE DAVIS

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

RACHEL BROGAN

Age: 16

Hails from: She has lived all her life in Moss Side and nearby Rusholme, parents unemployed.

Achievement: Her first play has just been produced at Manchester's Contact Theatre. She was a winner of this year's Manchester Airport Young Playwrights' Festival.

What's the story? *Stages of Love* was originally inspired by Brogan's own family's past. Set in the 1950s, it contemplates forms of slavery and dysfunctional relationships, schisms and fusions. The story follows two Irish newlyweds. They abandon Ireland because the well-born husband's working-class wife is being treated like a servant but, after they settle in Manchester, their marriage falls apart partly because of alcohol dependency. She leaves him for a Jamaican immigrant, who suffers racism in common with the Irish. "It is funny in parts," says Brogan, "And pretty sad."

High marks: The Contact's artistic director, Benedict Ayrton, says: "Besides being a remarkable story, this play is really one of the best pieces I've seen by a young person because of its structure, economy of language, heartbreaking silences and its pauses which leave so much for the actors to make up their own minds about."

Coming into Contact: Encouraged by her mother (who, incidentally, has just finished a novel), Brogan has been going to the theatre since she was tiny. "I remember seeing *Stig of the Dump*," she says, "And really enjoying the closeness of theatre which television didn't have." Then, this year, Rachel chose to go to the Contact for a week's work experience. As she was typing, franking and faxing, someone suggested she should pop a play into the young playwrights' competition. She came back with the plot outline the next day and, after a workshop, wrote the play in a weekend.

On herself: "I think I'm very confident, outgoing, very polite and really singing my own praises."

On the festival: "Before this I never dreamt I'd have a play on here. It gives people hope."

KATE BASSETT



Sir Robert May
Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government



Sir Roger Penrose
Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics, Oxford University



Arthur C. Clarke
Author and Broadcaster

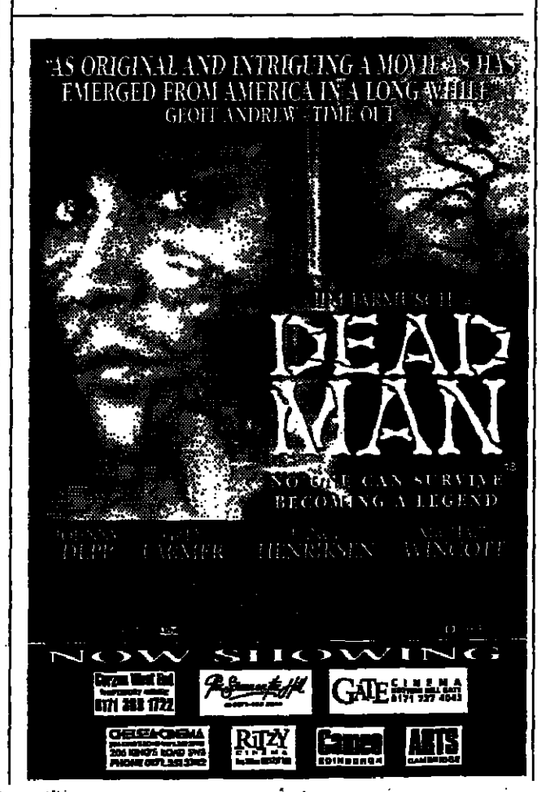


Helena Kennedy QC
Barrister and Broadcaster

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Roger Scruton argues that by pretending animals have rights we are blinded to our responsibility for their well-being

The beauty of the beasts

Almost everything that could be said about the BSE crisis has been said already: but not *quite* everything. There is one aspect which has so far gone unnoticed in the press, but which deserves mention, since it connects with one of the most important moral problems faced by modern societies. I refer to the more or less total silence of the lobby for "animal rights".

Organised groups have defied the law in order to prevent the export of calves; others have disrupted fox-hunts and angling competitions; the more militant have set fire to milk-yards and sent bombs through the post to scientists engaged in animal research. Public opinion has been stirred up against the fur-trade, against whaling, against the culling of seal cubs, and against the eating of veal. Academic reputations have been made through the defence of animal rights. And yet this vast body of public opinion, faced with the pointless slaughter of millions of healthy animals, falls silent.

Surely, if animals have any rights, then they have the right to be spared from slaughter when the only motive is to appease our masters in Brussels? Anyone who has witnessed the tears of a farmer as his carefully tended herd is condemned to destruction will know who really has had the interest of these animals at heart. One could be forgiven for thinking that the animal-rights movement is less interested in defending animals than in attacking the people who look after them.

Such a conclusion would be unjust. The fact is that we have become deeply confused about the nature of animals, and about the proper way of relating to them. The loss of the religious worldview, and the sanitised view of nature that people obtain from television, has caused us to overlook the real distinctions between animals and people and to pass rapid and arbitrary judgment in matters that require a symptom of moral laziness: it bespeaks a failure to take the question of their welfare as seriously as we should.

Of course, animals can be helped and harmed; they experience joy and suffering; and they are crucially dependent upon human beings to safeguard their long-term interests. But not all interests are rights. A right is an interest that cannot be overridden without its owner's consent. We assign rights in order to protect the sovereignty of the individual, so that he is free to enter into negotiated relations with others of his kind. Unlike the animals, we make free choices based on the evaluation of alternatives. We criticise one another's actions. We offer reasons for doing or not doing what another proposes. We exert a kind of sovereignty over our lives, which obliges us to respect the sovereignty of others. In short, we are moral beings — and we must purchase our rights by assuming responsibilities. If animals had rights then they would have duties too; in which case whole species should be condemned, like the lion, the fox and the heron, to ignominious exile from the fold of Creation.

Because animals make no moral judgments, it would be cruel and ultimately senseless to treat them as though they were members of a moral community. The attempt to broker our relations with other species through concepts of right and duty would inevitably lead to a breakdown of all cordial sentiment between us and them. It is because the advocates of animal rights know this that they fall silent when the real test of their convictions arises. Meanwhile, however, their vociferous spokesmanship has so clouded people's minds that we are left helpless in the face of the catastrophe that faces Britain's cattle.

How then can we fulfil our moral duties towards animals? Everything depends upon the relationship between us. Towards pet and domestic animals we have assumed a duty of care: we have undertaken a responsibility for their well-being, which we cannot arbitrarily set aside just because it would be convenient. If you have bred and raised an animal who is totally dependent upon you for its well-being, then you are not entitled to put it down without a good reason. It is a good reason that the animal is sick or suffering: it is for a good reason that it is healthy but required as human food — for in that case it owes its existence to the fact of being eaten. But it is not a good reason that some bureaucrat requires it, in order to appease your competitor in another country. It is not a good reason that public hysteria cries out for it.

Towards animals in the wild we have assumed no duty of care. But this does not mean that we can treat them in any way we please. Sympathy towards the joys and sufferings of other creatures sets limits to our treatment of them: so do our conceptions of human vice and virtue. Those who understand what is at stake in hunting, shooting and fishing know that these serve the interest of wild animals far more effectively than any belief in their rights. But as long as people prefer simple solutions to arduous moral thinking it will be hard to persuade them of this truth.

The time has come, it seems to me, to address the moral question of animals with the seriousness that it deserves. This is a duty that we owe, not only to the animals but to all those who are charged with looking after them — and to farmers in particular.

Roger Scruton's pamphlet, Animal Rights and Wrongs, *is published by Demos.*

Come again to Tiananmen

Jonathan Mirsky on the legacy of 75 years of Chinese Communism

In the same week that Russian voters rejected the Communist Party, whose agents in the early 1920s helped the young Mao Tse-tung and a few others to found a Communist party of their own, the 75th anniversary of that founding was greeted coolly in Peking. President Jiang Zemin, who is also Party General Secretary, was in Europe and the meagre celebrations were confined to articles in the little-read *People's Daily*.

Why only two cheers for the Party? It is not that the Party has nothing to say for itself. It still insists that Mao, who was present at its official founding in Shanghai in 1921, was ultimately responsible for China's liberation, that Mr Deng, who joined the Party three years later, made enormous contributions to the economy, and that Mr Jiang is virtually the equal of his two mighty predecessors.

With the Chinese materially more well-off than ever, and China now a world-class player in international affairs, the very low key seems odd. But what would the third cheer sound like? This is a Party, not a State occasion when flaws are masked with fireworks, march-pasts and leaders waving from the podium on top of the gate at Tiananmen Square.

The biggest traditional gong the Party can bang is a resolution. Resolutions look back on achievements and on "errors" which never remain unresolved, and ahead to the future. In 1945, the Party's 24th year, a resolution appeared reviewing the Party's history — there were still four years to go until the 1949 seizure of power — and making plain that Mao Tse-tung stood alone in authority and importance. In 1971, the 50th anniversary was ruined by the slide into ignominy of Marshal Lin Biao, Mao's designated successor. Soon afterwards, it is claimed, he tried unsuccessfully to assassinate the Chairman and died in a plane crash while fleeing to Mongolia. No resolution.

In 1981, the 60th anniversary, a resolution emerged evaluating Mao, dead since 1976, as a great "tragic" revolutionary who brought catastrophe to China with the Cultural Revolution but who remained on balance a great man, and conceding that the Party had gloriously mended its ways. Mr Deng's message was not unlike John Major's slogan: "Yes it hurt. Yes it worked."

The vast obstacle to an inspiring message this year is Tiananmen Square. A jagged scar, it disfigures the years since 1989 and will not start to heal until the truth is told. A year after what the Party officially still cites as "the incident", a very high official told me that until what really happened on the night of June 3, 1989, was "re-examined", "rectified", and the "verdict reversed" (the three mantras invoked to deal with lies about the past), the Chinese would never give their loyalty to any leader.

Some Western China-watchers, keen to get on well with Peking, insist Tiananmen Square, although "tragic", is no longer of consequence. The Chinese, they claim, are too busy making money. This ignores the official admission that there were uprisings in 80 cities outside Peking. In the words of the BBC's James Miles, in his recent book, *The Legacy of Tiananmen*: "Those affected do not necessarily go around looking gloomy."

The Party continues to insist — which few Chinese believe — that what occurred in 1989 was a "counter-revolutionary uprising". Mr Deng, who ordered in the tanks, abetted by top officials such as Premier Li Peng, told Canada's ex-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in 1990 that, had Tiananmen Square continued there would have been a civil war, "rivers of blood" and "well over 100 million people fleeing the country".

Under house arrest in Peking today is former Party General Secretary and Premier Zhao Ziyang, disgraced and stripped of office by the Party for colluding with the counter-revolutionaries. If this were Mao's day he might have wasted away in prison. Today invisibility is enough: in recent Chinese newspaper pictures of Margaret Thatcher signing the 1984 treaty with Mr Zhao, he has been razored out.

If there were a "re-examination" of Tiananmen Square, perhaps on the Party's 80th anniversary in 2001, followed by a "rectification" and a "reversal," Mr Zhao would be freed and although very old could become a rallying point for a new order of some sort. Millions of apologies or one huge omnibus apology would have to be made. Li Peng would not survive.

And Mr Deng? For such a resolution he would have to be dead. Like Mao, he too would be summed up as a "tragic" hero. There would be a cautious national sigh of relief. There would be no compensation for the victims of 1989 and little academic research into what really happened. Such is "reversal" Chinese-style.

But, just as the 1981 resolution led to the public questioning which ended in Tiananmen Square, one condemning the 1989 killings would lead many Chinese to think it was at last safe to demand fundamental political change. This could be a fatal mistake.

No more feel-smug factor

What do Tony Blair, John Major and the Archbishop of Canterbury have in common? They have all indulged in oratorical Muzak

Simon Jenkins



Yesterday the Archbishop of Canterbury had a fit of morality. The day before, Tony Blair had a fit of ideology and John Major covered the Scots with love bites by presenting them with the Stone of Scone. Summer is clearly coming. The moon is changing. The ozone layer is thinning. This is the way the world ends: not with a bang but a waffle.

We start with the Archbishop. George Carey has launched another great debate on the nation's morals. The nation, he says, is steeped in moral decline. In the House of Lords and numerous press interviews he has deplored those who regard morality as a matter of personal opinion. That, he said, was "relativism". Children should be taught that life was like football, to be played according to rules. Parents and teachers must teach right from wrong, and practise what they teach.

So far so bland. But behind every moral crusader there is usually a trade unionist bursting to get out. The rules of which the Archbishop speaks are, to him, indistinguishable from the spiritual values of the Christian church. Britain, he says, is still influenced by the "rich moral legacy of the Judaeo-Christian tradition". He told *The Daily Telegraph* that it is squandering this tradition and living off something he calls moral capital. He told *The Independent* that morality needed to be seized back from the private sector and subjected to public ownership. Without a spiritual and moral heartbeat society would perish. Schools should inculcate these moral-spiritual-Christian values by daily worship in school. So there we have it.

Tony Blair's Labour Party is growing more like the Church of England by the day. On Thursday he published his secular version of the Archbishop's sermon, a draft manifesto on which party members are being invited to "vote". Britain is again in decline, tired and outdated. It needs new Labour and Mr Blair.

New Labour is "neither old left nor new right . . . It leads from the centre but is profoundly radical in the changes it promises. The time has come "to breathe new life into our country . . . uncompromising, unhesitating . . . a fundamental change in the values of government." There is, says Mr Blair, "too little sense of common purpose across the nation." To the nation's questions, Labour now "provides the answers".

The document is as full of waffle as the Archbishop's bromides. It reminds me of an advertisement for an InterCity chardonnay, "with its fresh flavour of bananas and strawberry and a sprinkling of pepper to whet your appetite, fresh as country nettles and meadow grass." Labour wants to give everyone "a stake in society", to "clean up politics and give power back to the people." Apart from some hesitant constitutional reform, there is nothing new or objectionable or controversial.

The document reeks of Labour's wish to enter power with every option open. It is not politics but feel-good verbals, intended to soothe the senses and make a Labour vote slide more easily down the electoral gullet.

The defining task of moral and political leadership is not to play with platitudes. I assume it is to help private citizens through life's painful choices in pursuit of a happy and prosperous life — where they cannot help themselves. Voltaire would see the past week's vacuities as no more than the striving of the powerful after more power. I see them as the effusions of men for whom words are no longer the grammatical link between thought and action. They are the noise of public life, oratorical Muzak.

I do not know what Dr Carey means by moral relativism and I am not sure that he does. Nor do I know how he identifies his own moral absolutism with spiritualism. He is mouthing what the English dictionary calls "terms of generalised approbation" to evoke a sympathetic response in an audience worried that the Church should somehow "give a lead". Like Labour's manifesto, the last thing the words are meant to be is controversial. They offer no guide to life's painful choices. They pretend that all is for the best if only we would do what the Bible says — which we will not.

When the Church of England has to lead its own, it finds no guidance in what Dr Carey terms "the moral logic of religion". When five years ago he should have made some painful choices in his backyard in Lincoln, he could not bring himself to do so. His Church still will not share its buildings in charity with other religions. The attitude of many Anglican clergy to women and divorce is, in my relativist view, not just uncharitable but immoral. Dr Carey will opine with Mr Pecksniff that the world is indeed perplexed by sin and that his problems are more complex than I describe. Yet he presumes to hurl down moral absolutes on the teenagers, parents and teachers of Britain.

We must assume that both Mr Blair and Dr Carey have a vested interest in talking down the moral state of the nation. The one blames the Government, the other blames schools and families. Both have recently directed their ire at the state of education. Yet ask them what they really propose and they waffle. In a nutshell, the one says vote Labour, the other says go to church. Neither is prepared to chance his arm on why or how this will make Britain a happier or more prosperous place.

In a politician this is perhaps no surprise. But since Dr Carey singled out unbelievers as lacking "an ideological base for their ethical standards" and thus implied they were ethically wobbly, we can sense a whiff of battle. His national debate on the moral state of Britain implies argument. But Dr Carey also asserted that the authority claimed by the Church for its moral programme is not open to question. He deplored "confusion and disagreement about the authority for moral absolutes." This is not for debate. It is received from God and communicated through the church.

The conservative Right in education has long demanded that schooling should concentrate on what is objective: sums, science, historical and geographical facts. Anything that smacked of argument smacked of socialism. Such objectivity has become the leitmotif of the national curriculum. Yet Dr Carey has been much taken with the suggestion of the head of that curriculum, Nicholas Tate, that in addition to facts, schools should inculcate values. Values may not be facts, but as long as they are the right ones, they are government-approved. They are acceptable subjectivity. Christian values are honorary facts.

This is all a total mish-mash. Mr Tate's values and Dr Carey's spiritual precepts are moral choices, to be made by free citizens after due debate. Perhaps there was a golden age when young and old could be induced to unthinking obedience by a process of terror, punishment and reward. Those days are mercifully over. If Dr Casey wants to persuade children to abjure sex and drugs and honour their fathers and mothers, he must argue his pitch. There is no point in telling children that a pattern of behaviour is wrong, if you are not prepared to tell them why.

In my experience children are just as capable as adults of discerning and discussing ethical choices. It is adults who rarely have the guts to take them on, let alone admit occasional defeat. The roots of moral dilemma lie in personal experience, in which right and wrong are not clear cut and choice is by its nature "relative". The House of Lords yesterday denied this in favour of something called "a national moral consensus". If this is a consensus in favour of argument and persuasion, it might succeed. If it is mere moral absolutism, it will stay floating in the air of their lordships' House.

Since the dawn of time, the old have decried the young as degenerate and summoned a crusade to jolt them from moral squalor. It is the hoariest cliché in the book and those who utter it always find someone else to blame. I am sure Mr Blair and Dr Carey mean no ill. They needed something plausible to say in a dull week. But that is no excuse.

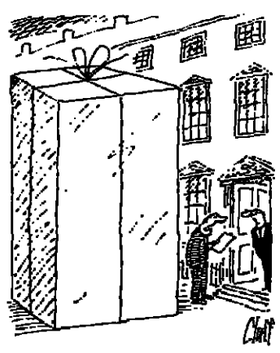
Bombed out

THE COMMUNICATIONS nexus at the Royal Air Force has had its wings clipped. Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, has banned letters which are rude about the RAF from being published in the service's official newspaper *RAF News*.

The decision follows a barrage of criticism from the national press of Michael Portillo, Defence Secretary and party-giver. But yesterday, the MoD insisted that Mr Portillo had no part in the decision.

"It is an internal RAF matter, absolutely nothing to do with Mr Portillo," said a spokesman. "The editor had been trying to ginger-up the letters pages but some of the young members of the RAF responded a little too enthusiastically, and the criticism was starting to become personalised on a senior level."

The editor informs his readers of the decision in a terse statement in the current issue, headed Stop Press. "Be advised," he writes, "that letters critical of certain sensitive areas in the RAF environment are now subject to a vetting procedure which may delay, change or eliminate them." Yesterday, the editor was out of contact.



"Divorce package for the Princess"

Bottle blond

PAUL GASCOIGNE's kaleidoscopic variety of hair-styles is playing havoc with the toy industry. Corinthian Toys produced thousands of 3in-high figures of the goalscorer in blond earlier this year, only to find that he'd dyed his hair black. They sent all the mini-Gazzas back to be repainted, ready for sale at the end of April, when he went blond again for Euro 96. "That boy's a key player in our range but he's proved a handful," says the firm — which now sells pots of hair-dye with their prize footballer.

● *Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, guests of honour at a party in Harrods after the premiere of* Mission Impossible *on Thursday night, made a quick exit to catch a flight to Bratislava, where she is filming. Other guests, including Mrs Chambrun (formerly Raine Spencer), Barbara and Ken Follet and Vanessa Redgrave, were too busy to notice their departure. They were gorging on a vast and vulgar birthday cake provided by Mohamed Al Fayed for Cruise's birthday on Wednesday.*

Smoke and ire

ADVICE FOR female visitors to the Governor's residence, Hong Kong: throw away the pillar-box lipstick, leave the ciggies behind and don't even think of painting your nails. In the August issue of *Harpers & Queen*, Chris Patten writes movingly of fashion and female beauty. "One of the most unattractive sights in the world is a woman sitting next to an ashtray piled with cigarette butts with bright scarlet ends," he says. "I hate red nails and lipstick, and women who wear heavy eye make-up."

Sir David Frost, no stranger to the powder puff himself, also condemns cosmetics: "Beauty comes from within, not from within tubes, compacts and sprays — though I have often wondered: if it is so hard for women to keep lipstick on, why is it so hard for men to get it off?"

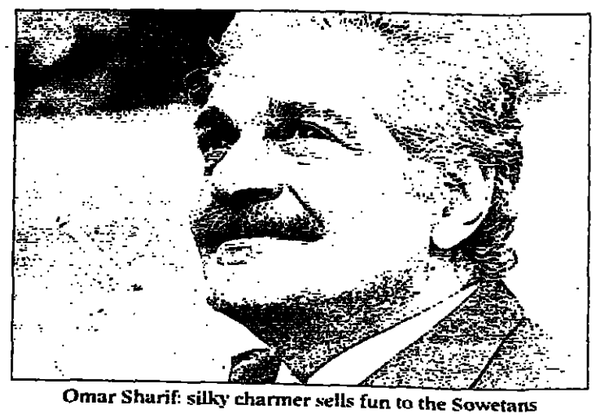


No smoking, please

Heir apparent

AGITATED moustache-twirling in Brussels over the announcement by Prince Philippe, eldest son of King Albert II of Belgium, that he wants to be king. Until now, his shyness and beetroot blushes in public had led many to think he did not have the stomach for his birthright. Yesterday, however, in an unprecedented step, the unmarried Philippe, 36, summoned journalists and told them that he would be prepared to step up to the throne if his father died or abdicated.

Confusion has circled Philippe since the death of his childless uncle, King Baudouin, in 1993. It had long been thought that his father Albert, then 59, would step aside to leave his son to take the throne. Stints at Oxford and Stanford universities, and the Belgian Air Force, a mean outfit, were meant to have groomed him. Instead Albert took over. Philippe has now emerged from his shell and is ready for the main job.



Omar Sharif: silky charmer sells fun to the Sowetans

Good gnus

SOWETANS are soon to receive a master-class in suavity from Omar Sharif, the smoothest living film star by streets since David Niven donned his celestial polo-neck. Sharif is the frontman in the township for a £400-million development called Fun Valley.

There will be colossal hotels, gurgling waterfalls and plastic gnus stalking the arria. The venture marks an upturn in fortunes for Sharif, a bridge-player and the silkiest Egyptian ever to pull on a Subranie Cocktail.

P·H·S

THE HONOURABLE WAGE

Time to be realists not populists on MPs' pay

On Wednesday evening the House of Commons will be asked their views on the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body. The Government will suggest that they reject those deliberations and instead raise their pay in line with inflation. Members should ignore the Government and vote through the original increase.

None of this has made a pretty picture. John Major commissioned this committee to examine the issue of remuneration. Then when, entirely logically, it said that significant improvements in salaries were warranted, he suggested that its judgment should be jettisoned because the analysis is inconvenient in the year before an election. In this he gets backing from leaders of both main opposition parties. In the abstract all agree that MPs have fallen well behind in the pay scale but that this year, like every year, is not the time to deal with it.

This is a miserable exercise which cries out for honesty. The truth is that by every possible measure — inflation rates, overall wage increases, senior civil servants' stipends and international comparison — MPs' salaries have stagnated and those of Ministers slumped over the last 30 years. Every time a sensible suggestion is made for correction it is either "phased in" over an inordinate period or abandoned outright for fear of adverse public perception. This problem will never be solved unless a stand is taken. Now is the time.

The increases recommended for backbenchers are below that which could be upheld by the price index or foreign comparison. A degree of restraint has already occurred. No more is necessary. It is high time for us to be realists not populists on this issue. This matter should have been dealt with at the time of the Nolan report. It reflects little credit on Mr Major that it was not.

Nor should this call be compromised by the currently fashionable view that the number of MPs should be reduced to accompany any increase in their pay slips. This is a popular but misplaced argument. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead has raised the hoary comparison with the United States which has about five times our population but only 435 members of the House of Representatives and 100 Senators. This is a fallacious comparison. The United States is a federal system with more than 4,500 paid legislators serving at the state level.

Lord Jenkins, normally such an enthusiastic advocate of the EU, fails to make a European comparison. Britain at present has 651 MPs. France has 577 members in its National Assembly. Italy has 630 in the Chamber of Deputies (about what the UK would be without the over-representation of Scotland and Wales). Germany has 672. In all cases they are better compensated than in Westminster. It also seems odd that when virtually all studies indicate that Members are overloaded with constituency work, the proposed solution is a legislative cull.

Both front benches solemnly oppose the increase while privately hoping that the backbenchers will revolt and vote it through regardless. This is a cowardly position to take. Britons may not love their politicians but someone has to do the job and it should be treated properly. It would not be in the interests of the country for Parliament to be filled with the otherwise unemployable or the privately wealthy. The Senior Salaries Review Body has produced a compelling case. It should be supported, openly and honestly on Wednesday night.

MANDATE FOR ISRAEL

Netanyahu should seize the opportunity he has been given

There has not been much of a political honeymoon for Benyamin Netanyahu. An aggrieved maid assailed his wife for sacking her over burnt soup. This "Nannygate" was followed by the revelation that four separate names had held Mr Netanyahu's social security number when he worked in the United States. The fanciful implication was that he kept a false identity as an American spy. Then Foreign Minister David Levy demanded last week that the Prime Minister settle the question of Ariel Sharon's Cabinet status before his departure for Washington tonight or he would resign.

Soup and social security numbers will blow over. The question of Mr Sharon and Mr Levy will not. This was the second time in a month that the Foreign Minister had embarrassed his erstwhile leader. On the first occasion he refused to be sworn into office until a suitable portfolio was found for Mr Sharon. Mr Netanyahu created a position of Minister for National Infrastructure. Constructing this new body from the empires of others proved so slow that Mr Sharon indicated his displeasure through Mr Levy's unusually public threat. The Prime Minister has again relented and produced a defence and security component for Mr Sharon endorsed by the full Cabinet.

These machinations centre on factional alignments. Mr Netanyahu defeated Mr Levy in a bitter struggle for the Likud leadership in 1993. Levy, who then bolted and formed the Gesher Party, had initially intended to stand in the contest for Prime Minister. This would have almost guaranteed the victory of Shimon Peres over a divided right. A last-minute deal, brokered by Mr Sharon, prevented this. The two men believe they should now be rewarded.

This is not what the introduction of a direct ballot for Prime Minister in Israel was meant to achieve. That reform was in reaction to the power exercised in the Knesset by tiny parties and the horse-trading to create governments. It was hoped that the clear and personal mandate awarded by the people would sweep such activity aside. Yet in the month that has followed the poll, the two Likud heavyweights have challenged that authority, swapping intra-party squabbles for inter-party schemes.

Mr Netanyahu must give no more ground. If he wants to use his post meaningfully he needs to assert himself now. Otherwise he will always be shackled. These disputes have obscured significant initiatives by the Prime Minister over the last week. He has made it plain that the liberal economic reforms pursued by his predecessor will continue. He has softened his hostility to the Palestinian National Authority by dispatching his senior adviser, Dore Gold, to meet with Yassir Arafat. After those talks it was announced that all channels to the PNA would be re-opened. The Prime Minister also revealed his willingness to meet President Assad of Syria. Much more friendly noises concerning the redeployment of Israeli troops in Hebron have been made.

If Mr Netanyahu is to fulfil his pledge to negotiate from strength and continue these welcome developments, he must stamp his authority on his own Government. Anything less would make a mockery of the ballots Israelis cast in May.

CONDEMNED FOR CONVERSION

Kuwait was not liberated to allow persecution of Christians

When the vast, multi-national alliance drove the Iraqi invaders out of the tiny kingdom of Kuwait at the end of the Gulf War five years ago, the coalition's first aim was to re-establish the Kuwaiti state. Behind that purpose lay a hope: that the renewed Kuwait might be a more plural, tolerant and open society than in the past. That hope, always dim in sceptics' eyes, has rarely been more brutally dashed than by our account today of the case of Kuwaiti citizen and Christian convert, Robert Hussein.

Mr Hussein, a 44-year-old married man lives in hiding and in fear of his life; he has been separated from his children, and his wife is reported to have been abducted and raped. He lives the kind of life which many Kuwaitis lived during the appalling half year of occupation by Iraq. But Kuwait is now at peace and Mr Hussein has broken no law passed by his Government. His only crime has been to convert to Christianity, thus breaking Islam's Sharia law.

The Kuwaiti constitution promises freedom of religion but the assurance is hollow: Sharia law takes precedence over the law of the land. Mr Hussein can take an appeal to a civil court later this year but his chances of success are not high and he and his friends believe that fundamentalists may try to kill him. At least five people have died over the past two years after being declared apostates in countries where Sharia law is practised, 1st of them in Pakistan.

Even making due allowance for the concessions which every kingdom in the Gulf has had to make to radical Islam, this is a disgrace which will poison Kuwait's relations with those Western countries which rescued it from oblivion only a few years ago. When Christian and Muslim soldiers fought to free Kuwait, they did not do so to see men flee their homes and families because of changing their religion. Death sentences for apostasy are wrong wherever they are pronounced or carried out. But any Christian soldier who served in the Gulf could be forgiven for feeling bitter: a man is being persecuted in Kuwait for no greater crime than leaving Islam and converting to Christianity. Of all countries which might owe a little consideration to Christians, Kuwait is surely that place.

The picture of Kuwaiti society painted by Mr Hussein's case is of a government too weak to prevent religious mob rule over the victims of Islamic law. Let us hope that Mr Hussein survives his ordeal. But even if he does, his life has been wrecked for the "crime" of taking too literally the Koran's injunction to study the Bible. Over a number of years and beginning at an American university in the 1970s, Mr Hussein read more and more, converted and changed his name. For thus "insulting Islam" he has been divorced by the Sharia court, forbidden to see his children and stripped of his rights and passport.

If the Kuwaiti Government cannot make good the guarantees of religious freedom in its constitution, the British or American Government should suggest that Mr Hussein and his family be allowed to leave Kuwait and settle elsewhere if they wish. Governments are naturally reluctant to set precedents which might multiply claims for asylum. But such a rescue would hardly be likely to occur very often. If either ex-President George Bush or John Major were to appeal to the Kuwaiti authorities, they could hardly refuse. The rulers of that fortunate state owe the outside world no less.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Somme sacrifice was not in vain

From Canon Michael Saward

Sir, Ten years ago this week you published a letter from me (July 2, 1986) describing my experience on the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. I had stood, with not a living soul in sight, on July 1, 1976, at 7.28am on the edge of the enormous mine crater known as Lochnagar, which had erupted at that very moment 60 years earlier.

It formed the most visible symbol of the infantry battle which then commenced, in which nearly 20,000 British soldiers died before the sun went down and twice as many more were wounded. Lochnagar is 300ft across and 90ft deep.

An unexpected consequence of that letter was that I was invited from then onward to become chaplain to a group of men and women who had joined with Mr Richard Dunning, an Englishman who had purchased the crater in 1979. Every year they gather to honour the memory of that terrible day and for seven years I helped to conduct a deeply moving commemoration. Since 1994 one of my brother clergy has continued the tradition.

Unlike the big formal military events, with their generals and politicians, Lochnagar has become the symbol of ordinary people's respect and gratitude. Year by year the numbers of British, French and more recently German men and women attending have grown and last Monday, on the 80th anniversary, there were about 900 people present.

The Somme was, by any standards, a ghastly slaughter and appalling casualties were suffered. The British remember it chiefly for those casualties and especially for the horror of the first day. Your leader (June 29), following a long-standing tradition fostered by Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, fails to grasp the fact that the German General Ludendorff acknowledged that "the Somme was the muddy grave of the German field army ... fought to a standstill and utterly worn out".

No one can contemplate what happened with indifference and the ground gained was certainly insignificant, but Ludendorff's words show that those British soldiers and their colleagues from the then Empire did not die vainly.

It is that realisation which led the historian, John Terraine, to describe the Somme as "the turning point" in the First World War. We, even today, owe to those of our countrymen who suffered and died the recognition that their terrible sacrifice was not utterly pointless.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SAWARD
(Canon Treasurer,
St Paul's Cathedral),
6 Amen Court, EC4.
July 3.

Mud and stars

From Mr Edward C. Wilson

Sir, Your thought-provoking leading article, "Mud and stars" (June 29), was right to praise the dogged courage of Kitchener's New Army of volunteers, but they were emphatically not Housman's honoured "mercenaries".

The men whom the Kaiser, according to some accounts, so wrongly dismissed as a "contemptible little army", formed the British Expeditionary Force, the regular soldiers of the British Army. They it was who "saved the sum of things for pay".

Those were Housman's honoured "Army of mercenaries" and, to their eternal glory, they took upon themselves the title of the Old Contemptibles.

I am, Sir, yours etc.
EDWARD WILSON,
19 Castle Meadow,
Sible Hedingham, Essex.
July 1.

From Mr F. Parrott

Sir, The famous photograph you show (June 29; July 1) to illustrate the Somme battle is of men, wearing little or no field-service equipment, moving up a trench. It has always seemed to me that whatever else they were doing, they were not going "over the top" on July 1, 1916.

I am informed by the Imperial War Museum that this was a photograph of a raiding party moving out into no man's land in spring 1917. I understand that shortly after the photograph was taken several of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) in the picture were killed by what we now call "friendly fire" — a British shell dropping short.

Yours faithfully,
F. PARROTT,
50 Houndean Rise,
Lewes, East Sussex.
July 1.

From Dr J. S. Logan

Sir, It is shocking that a reference to a forthcoming piece in your Somme report (June 29) used the phrase "Ulster's conscripts" in relation to the dreadful losses of the Ulster Division. Every Ulsterman was a volunteer. There was no conscription in Ulster, either in the First World War or the Second.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. LOGAN,
27 Myrtlefield Park, Belfast.
June 29.

Weighing monarch's 500-year-old debt to New College

From Mr Justin Howes

Sir, Dr Joshua Silver, the sub-warden of New College, treads dangerously in his attempt to reclaim the college's outstanding loan to Edward IV of £140 with 4 per cent interest over 535 years ("College presents the Queen with a bill owed for five centuries", July 1).

In order to make a convincing case for itself, New College must first fully restore the value of its own undergraduate exhibitions and scholarships. I fear that after applying the same rate of interest it seeks from the Queen (but calculating over the mere century and a half since the rates were fixed at £40 and £60) New College may find itself liable to pay exhibitioners £14,356 and scholars £21,525 pa, in spite of a fairly recent increase in the amounts to £150 and £200 respectively.

This admirable move would, no doubt, be observed with interest by other ancient foundations anxious to alleviate the financial burdens faced today by too many undergraduates.

Yours faithfully,
JUSTIN HOWES,
45 High Street, New Mills, Cheshire.
July 1.

From Mr Benjamin Levy

Sir, While it may cause no surprise that eager academics should overlook the statutes of limitation, which extinguish a claim after six years where there is no acknowledgement by the debtor, one might expect the fellows of a foundation of a former Bishop of Winchester to balk at claiming interest on a debt created at a time when to lend money at interest was both a crime and a sin. Even the short-lived Act of 1545 which allowed lending at interest (37 Henry VIII c.9) still castigated usury as "beinge a Thinge unlawfull".

Should not this have given pause for thought, and possibly some reticence on the matter of interest compounded over five centuries? Even today the courts will only award simple interest on an ordinary debt. The college would do well to settle for an *ex-gratia* payment.

Yours faithfully,
BENJAMIN LEVY,
Enterprise Chambers,
9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
July 1.

From Dr Michael Haren

Sir, The most substantial palaeographical slip in your account of New College's memorandum of loan to Edward IV is the fact that the sum in question was 240 marks, not £240. (The crucial word "marce" has been omitted in your transcription.) The effect is to reduce the original debt by one third.

And would Wykeham's foundation really have wished to be branded usurious? On the facts as stated, a mere £60 should honourably settle the affair.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HAREN,
c/o 5 Ellerslie,
Powfoot, Annan, Dumfries-shire.
July 2.

From Mr Alan Crossley, FSA

Sir, Oxford and its colleges have always understood the workings of patronage. New College should perhaps recall with gratitude the Crown's friendship: only 20 years before the loan of 1461 Henry VI had rescued the college finances by granting extensive estates confiscated from the alien priory of Longueville in Normandy.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CROSSLEY
(Editor), *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*,
Bodleian Library,
Broad Street, Oxford.
July 1.

From Miss Ellen Nisbet

Sir, It appears that the age of chivalry has gone, and that of "sophisters, economists and calculators", as Burke put it in his *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, has finally taken hold in New College, Oxford.

Had the college had more grace, they would have forgiven the debt under the law of jubilees (Leviticus xxv, 10) on July 18, 1511. Perhaps they will forgive it in 2011 after ten more jubilees, for surely "manners maketh man"?

I, however, shall be applying to Cambridge next year, where chivalry may still endure.

Yours faithfully,
ELLEN NISBET,
Holly Cottage, Middle Hill,
Englefield Green, Surrey.
July 1.

From Miss Mary O'Regan

Sir, In your transcription of Edward IV's loan from New College "DA" should be *die* and "ammo" *anno*. (Ammo domini? Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition?) Your "novium victuum" actually reads *novi victus* in the original.

Yours faithfully,
MARY O'REGAN,
18 St Martin's Drive,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.
July 1.

From Dr A. R. Stanford

Sir, Since the settlement of debts in the 15th century often took the form of payment in kind, perhaps Dr Joshua Silver of New College would consider accepting from Her Majesty an amount of hay equivalent to that which could have been purchased for £140 in 1460?

Yours faithfully,
A. R. STANFORD,
18 Princes Road, Bromham, Bedford.
July 1.

Export of art and Becket casket sale

From the Chairman of the Society of London Art Dealers

Sir, Right in law, but in practice a simplistic and wrong solution has been announced for the Thomas à Becket Limoges chasse (report and leading article, July 5).

Ministers have unfettered power to stop the export of almost anything. Such power is curtailed by a series of conventions, arrived at by consultation with interested parties, which give a degree of protection to our private collectors and the British art trade.

One such is the 50-year convention which limits the definition of a "heritage" item. Owners have hitherto felt free to import key works of art into this country, safe in the knowledge that their re-export within 50 years was a formality. Britain has benefited.

When carefully crafted conventions are set aside without consultation with all interested parties the consequences are unfortunate.

Will collectors continue to import into this country great works of art in the future? Will those who have imported in the past 50 years now become nervous and seek, for no reason other than fear of re-export problems, to return their property whence it came? Are the other carefully crafted conventions which have emerged over the past 40 years safe?

Now is the time to examine the real culprit, the most recent convention imposed without full consultation, whereby the National Heritage Lottery Fund may contribute to a British public collection only a limited proportion of the price of a purchase. If the chasse is worth "saving for the nation", is it not worth a 100 per cent grant?

Yours etc,
MICHAEL TOLLEMACHE,
Chairman,
Society of London Art Dealers,
91 Jermyn Street, SW1.
July 5.

From Mr George J. Levy

Sir, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, should have had the courage to announce 24 hours before the sale that she would make the Thomas à Becket casket the subject of an export licence deferral if it were purchased by an overseas buyer. The Heritage Fund would not then have been put in the invidious position of inflating the auction price, by somewhere in the region of £1 million, by being the underbidder to the successful purchaser.

The nation now has to reach this unnecessarily inflated price, assuming the overseas buyer is willing to sell, if it wants to save the casket from leaving Britain. What an extravagant way to save our heritage.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY,
H. Blairman & Sons,
119 Mount Street, W1.
July 5.

Slight to St George

From Professor Emerita Rebecca V. Colman

Sir, The appearance of some Union Jacks at Euro 96 in place of England's traditional flag of St George may have been a direct consequence of the confusion caused by Rome's highly questionable treatment of the saint (report, May 10, 1969).

When his commemoration was made voluntary instead of compulsory there was widespread suspicion that the Church had doubts about his credibility. That St George was an historical person Rome has never denied, but my researches into the Vatican records show that some saints, including St George, were not investigated for their credibility but were simply removed from the *Calendarium Romanum* to make space for saints considered "more topical" for our time, as Cardinal Bugnini described it in *L'Osservatore Romano* (May 29, 1969).

How and by whom that decision was made is a mystery: not everyone on the responsible committee, even, seems to have known.

There may have been embarrassment about the dragon (not mentioned in the records) but if so it was needless. The title of dragon-slayer was a popular accolade, like admission to the Hall of Fame. Constantine the Great, as Eusebius records, ordered a portrait of himself as a dragon-slayer for the portico of his new palace in Constantinople. Its symbolism was well understood in that literate age, as it should be in ours.

There is no justification whatever for this nation to reject either its flag or its patron saint.

Yours faithfully,
REBECCA V. COLMAN,
As from: University of Toronto,
Department of History,
Toronto M5S 1A1.
July 2.

Divided by sport

From Mr Denis Harper

Sir, How unfair of Colonel Richard Graham (letter, July 4; see also letter, June 29) to infer that most Scots would cheer any team opposing England.

We are not all xenophobic and indeed some Scots do not even complain when the majority of people "down South" refer to Britain as England. We also try to be magnanimous when English football supporters flaunt the Union flag instead of that of St George.

I am British and a unionist but occasionally find it difficult to remain so.

Sincerely,
DENIS HARPER,
20 Whinfield Drive,
Kinross, Scotland KY13 7UB.
July 4.

Antenatal cuts

From Miss Juliet McEachran

Sir, Your report headed "Deaths feared from antenatal cuts" (June 25) quotes a British figure of 1,000 infant deaths per annum from pre-eclampsia (a disturbance of the mother's circulation caused by a defect in the placenta). The true figure is around one third of this.

Our latest estimate, based on figures for 1994, indicates that the number of babies in England and Wales who died as a result of pre-eclampsia was 325 in 1994; including Northern Ireland the figure is 343.

Yours faithfully,
JULIET McEACHRAN
(Data analyst),
CESDI (Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy),
Lower Ground Floor, Chiltern Court,
188 Baker Street, NW1.
June 27.

Beef crisis

From Sir Frederic Bennett

Sir, Whether the beef crisis has been effectively handled or not, HMG has set a dangerous precedent and legitimised a procedural process in holding up all the business of the EU Commission and the Council of Ministers, across the board, until their demands on a single issue have been met.

This is a tactic roundly *and rightly* condemned by Mr Major in his recent angry denunciation of two of his backbench colleagues who adopted the same tactics when seeking to attain their own particular political objective (report, June 15).

Henceforth any other EU country which wants to achieve a specific policy end, against the will of a majority of the other member states, will be tempted to adopt the same strategy affecting them — matters which this country is anxious to see speedily and positively resolved.

Yours etc,
FREDERIC BENNETT,
4 Hale Court, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
June 25.

From Mr R. T. Purbrick

Sir, "Beef ban over in months, says Major", you report today. Does this mean it will all be over by Christmas?

Yours faithfully,
R. T. PURBRICK,
4 Jersey Court,
Jersey Road, Osterley, Middlesex.
June 24.

Weekend Money letters, page 38

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Risk assessment

From Mr Peter C. G. Southgate

Sir, Mr Tom Baldwin's sun-worshipping, tobacco-addicted, mobile-phone user (letter, July 2) stands little chance of longevity unless he heeds other recent medical discoveries, such as the benefits of a regular intake of red wine, pasta and olive oil. Then he'll probably live forever.

Yours indulgently,
PETER SOUTHGATE,
Lincombe,
Leatherhead Road, Oxshott, Surrey.
July 3.

Striking right note

From Mr David Berdinner

Sir, Now that the Proms season is almost with us I wonder if there is any way of knowing which first performances are avant-garde and which, despite their newness, spring from past tradition.

Public money is given to composers and it would be helpful to those like myself who are performers, let alone to the general listener, to know if there are any criteria by which a composition earns its commission.

The fact that the composer has a knighthood, for example, would not, it seems, be sufficient insurance against a wasted evening.

Yours nervously,
DAVID BERDINNER,
33 Miswell Lane,
Tring, Hertfordshire.
July 4.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 5: The Queen left the Palace of Holyroodhouse this morning.

Her Majesty later opened the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Strathblane Hall, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost) and the Chairman of the Conference Centre (Councillor Lesley Hinds).

The Queen toured the Centre, escorted by the Chief Executive (Mr Hans Rissmann), and afterwards honoured the Chairman with her presence at Luncheon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 5: The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Victim Support Schemes, this morning attended the Annual Conference at the University of Warwick, Gibbett Hill Road, Coventry, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

CLARENCE HOUSE
July 5: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning embarked in *HM Yacht Britannia* at Portsmouth.

In the afternoon Her Majesty launched the restored Air Sea Rescue High Speed Launch 102 at Calshot.

The Lady Grimthorpe, Sir Alastair Aird and Major Charles MacEwan were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 5: The Duchess of Gloucester today attended a Service of Thanksgiving to mark the 50th Anniversary of the National Blood Transfusion Service in England and Wales, in St Paul's Cathedral, London SW1.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 5: The Duke of Kent, President, the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, this afternoon attended the Wimbledon Championships, Wimbledon, London SW19.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
July 5: Princess Alexandra this afternoon attended a Garden Party given by the League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers at St Mary's University College, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, Middlesex.

Royal engagements

TODAY:
The Duke of York, Visitor, will present the prizes on Speech Day at the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, Suffolk, at 12.40.

Princess Margaret, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment), will take the Salute at Beating Retreat by the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, George Square, Glasgow, at 5.55 and will attend a reception in the City Chambers afterwards.

The Duke of Gloucester, as President of Christ's Hospital, will visit the school at Horsham, West Sussex, at 3.45 to mark the retirement of Mr Richard Poulton as Headmaster and on the occasion of Beating Retreat.

The Duke of Kent, as President of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, will attend the Wimbledon championships at 11.25.

TOMORROW:
The Duke of Kent, as President of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, will attend the Wimbledon championships at 12.15.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

TOMORROW:
The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

At the Council Meeting of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons held after the Annual General Meeting on Friday, July 5, 1996, Professor R.S. Jones was elected President of the College. The other Officers for the ensuing year are Mr D.J. Thompson (Senior Vice-President), Dr N.T. Gorman (Junior Vice-President) and Mrs P.J. Nute (Treasurer).

At the Annual General Meeting, Honorary Associateship of the Royal College was conferred upon Miss B. Cooper, Dr F. Orozco Gonzales and Dr M.B. Willis. Mr R. MacPherson, Mr R.N. Martin and Mr J.R. Tindall were elected Honorary Fellows of the College.

Luncheon

Manchester Consular Association

The High Sheriff of Greater Manchester attended the annual summer luncheon of the Manchester Consular Association held yesterday at the Bridge Hotel, Prestbury. Consul General Ernst Keller (Switzerland), president, Consul David Fox (Chile), secretary, and Consul Brian Carroll (Liberia), treasurer, welcomed the guests.

Dinner

Royal College of Radiologists

Dr B.M. Southcott, Chairman of the Final FRCR (Clinical Oncology) Examining Board, was the host at a dinner held last night at the Royal College of Radiologists in honour of Dr T.K. Wheeler and to mark the recent completion of his term of office as examining board chairman.

The Institute of Mathematics

The following have been granted Chartered Mathematician status and fellowship of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications:

Mr J.A. Barnes, Mr J.H. Barnes, Mrs S.D. Beales, Dr P. Bhattacharyya, Mr A.A. Billings, Dr W.J. Brendling, Dr A.P. Burrows, Dr R.C. Chivers, Mr H.S. Crowther, Dr O. Dietrich, Ms G.M. Hayward, Dr B.G. Heydecker, Mrs E.A. Gray, Dr D.J. Henwood, Mr R.P. Hoxey, Dr R. Hughes Jones, Dr J. Lam, Dr P.J. Larcombe, Dr D.A. Lawson, Mr C.L. Leighton, Dr E.H. Li, Dr K.O. Mead, Dr D.F. Mikulskis, Dr M.A. Nyman, Mr A. Osbaldiston, Dr D.F. Percy, Dr J.F.T. Pittman, Mr A.M. Pull, Professor P.D. Roberts, Dr P.Y.A. Ryan, Dr P.A. Scarf, Dr A.K. Seda, Ms S. Sherman, Dr S.K. Spurgeon, Dr E.V. Stansfield, Dr A.P. Steward, Dr J.S. Wadsworth, Professor L.C. Wrobel.

Service luncheon

Faugh-a-Ballagh Club

Colonel J.H. Coldwell-Horsfall presided at the annual luncheon of the Faugh-a-Ballagh Club for former Officers of The Royal Irish Fusiliers and their ladies held yesterday at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

Appointments

Miss Maeve Fort to be High Commissioner to South Africa from mid-November in succession to Sir Anthony Reeve who is retiring from the Diplomatic Service. Mr David MacLennan will succeed Miss Fort as Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic from late November.

Weekend birthdays





Geraldine James, the actress, is 46 today; Bill Oddie, actor and ornithologist, will be 55 tomorrow

TODAY: Mr Dave Allen, comedian, 60; Mr Vladimir Ashkenazy, pianist and conductor, 59; Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir Dick Caldwell, 89; Mr David Capel, cricketer, 33; Professor G.R. Conway, Vice-Chancellor, Sussex University, 58; Baroness Cox, 59; Mr John Cummings, MP, 53; the Dalai Lama, 61; Professor A.G. Dickens, historian, 86; Mr Peter Glossop, baritone, 68; Sir Timothy Harford, former chairman, Kwik Save Group, 64; Mr Jeff King, racehorse trainer, 55; Mr William McCall, trade unionist, 67; Mr John Makepeace, designer and furniture maker, 57; Mr Elliot Morley, MP, 44; Professor Barry Nicholas, former Principal, Brasenose College, Oxford, 77; Miss Mary Peters, athlete, 57; the Right Rev Simon Phipps, former Bishop of Lincoln, 75; Miss Cathryn Pope, soprano, 39; the Hon Jonathon Porritt, environmentalist, 46; Sir Charles Powell, an executive director, Matheson and Company, 55; Miss Jennifer Saunders, comedienne, 38; Mr Sylvester Stallone, actor, 50; Mr Joe Wilson, MEP, 59; Mr Robin Wilson, former chairman, Headmasters' Conference, 63.

TOMORROW: Mr Shami Ahmed, managing director, Joe Bloggs, 34; Mr Michael Ancram, MP, 51; Sir John G.N. Brown, publisher, 80; M Pierre Cardin, fashion designer, 74; Lord Carlisle of Bucklow, QC, 67; Sir Michael Colman, former chairman, Reckitt and Colman, 68; Lord Denman, 80; Mr Charles Dyer, playwright and actor, 68; Mr David Faber, MP, 35; Lord Farnham, 65; Mr Richard Fries, Chief Charity Commissioner, 56; Sir John Hedley Greenborough, former president, CBI, 74; Rear-Admiral J.S. Grove, 69; Mr Jeremy Guscott, rugby player, 31; Lieutenant-General Sir Ian Harris, racehorse breeder, 86; Major Richard Henderson, Lord-Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, 65; Mr Michael Howard, QC, Secretary of State for the Home Department, 55; Professor Tom Husband, Vice-Chancellor, Salford University, 60; Mr Tony Jacklin, golfer, 52; Mr Barry Jackson, Serjeant-Surgeon to the Queen, 60; Miss Rhona Jones, former matron, St Bartholomew's Hospital, 75; Mr Robert Luff, impresario, 82; Mr Hamish MacInnes, mountaineer, 66; Sir Christopher Mallaby, diplomat, 60; the Earl of Mansfield, 66; Mr Gian Carlo Menotti, composer, 85; Mr Alessandro Nannini, racing driver, 37; Mr Philip Reeves, etcher, 65; the Hon Sir Steven Runciman, CH, historian, 93; Mr Ringo Starr, musician, 56; Sir Adam Thomson, former chairman, British Caledonian Group, 70; Sir Richard Turnbull, former colonial administrator, 87; Professor Sir David Tweedie, chairman, Accounting Standards Board, 52; General Sir Michael Walker, 52.

Anniversaries

TODAY

BIRTHS: Sir Stamford Raffles, founder of Singapore, at sea off Jamaica, 1781; Sir William Jackson Hooker, 1st director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 1841-65, Norwich, 1785; Maximilian, Archduke of Austria, Emperor of Mexico 1864-67, Vienna, 1832; Bill Haley, rock and roll singer, Detroit, 1925.

DEATHS: King Henry II, reigned 1153-89, Chinon, France, 1189; King Edward VI, reigned 1547-53, Greenwich, 1553; Guy de Maupassant, writer, Paris, 1893; Kenneth Grahame, author of *The Wind in the Willows*, Pangborne, Berkshire, 1932; Aneurin Bevan, statesman, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, 1960; William Faulkner, novelist, Nobel laureate 1949, Oxford, Mississippi, 1962; Louis Armstrong, jazz singer and trumpeter, New York, 1971; Otto Klemperer, conductor, Zurich, 1973.

The Duke of Monmouth's forces were routed at Sedgemoor by those of James II, 1685.

Brooklands, the first purpose-built motor racing circuit, was opened in Surrey, 1907.

Malawi became a republic, 1966.

An explosion onboard the oil rig Piper Alpha killed 167 men, 1988.

TOMORROW

BIRTHS: Joseph Marie Jacquard, silk weaver, Lyons, 1752; Gustav Mahler, composer, Kaliste, Austria, 1860; Marc Chagall, painter, Vitebsk, Russia, 1887; Vittorio De Sica, film director, Sora, Italy, 1901.

DEATHS: King Edward I, (reigned 1272-1307, Burgh, Cumbria, 1307; Giacomo da Vignola, architect, Rome, 1573; William Pulteney, the Earl of Bath, statesman, London, 1764; Thomas Blacklock, poet, Edinburgh, 1791; Richard Brinsley Sheridan, dramatist and statesman, London, 1816; George Ohm, physicist, Munich, 1854; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, writer, Crowborough, Sussex, 1930; Sir Allen Lane, publisher, founder of Penguin Books, Northwood, Middlesex, 1970; Dame Flora Robson, actress, Brighton, 1984; Jimmy Edwards, comedy actor, 1988.

US naval officer Matthew Parry persuaded the Japanese Government to trade with the West, 1853.

The first Farnborough Air Show was held, 1950.

The Queen knighted Francis Chichester, the lone yachtsman, using Sir Francis Drake's sword, 1967.

Scottish Episcopal Church

Diocese of Edinburgh

The following have been ordained by the Most Rev Richard Holloway, in St Mary's Cathedral:

Priest

Terence James Harkin, to be Assistant Curate, Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains and Priory Church of St Mary of Mount Carmel, South Queensferry.

Ann Smith, to be NSM, Priory Church of St Mary of Mount Carmel, South Queensferry.

Henry Lyttle Williamson, to be NSM, St Margaret, Easter Road.

Deacon

Thomas Anthony Bramley, to be NSM, St James the Less, Penicuik.

David Richard Bunyan, to be NSM, St Peter, Musselburgh and St Andrew, Prestonpans.

David Francis Darling (Br David Francis SSF), to be NSM, St Ninian, Comely Bank.

Susan Elizabeth Wiffen, to be NSM, St John's, Jedburgh.

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

The following have been ordained by the Right Rev John Taylor, Bishop, in St Mary's Cathedral:

Priest

John F Lyon, to be Assistant Curate, St John, Greenock and St Bartholomew, Gourock.

Martin Oxley, to be Assistant Curate, St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow.

Deacon

Peter M Douglas, to be Hon Assistant Curate, St Ninian, Prestwick.

Gordon B Fyffe, to be Assistant Curate, Holy Trinity, Ayr.

John B Lennox, to be Hon Assistant Curate, Glasgow East End Ministry.

Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness

Ordained by the Right Rev Gregor Macgregor, Bishop, in St John, Rothiemurchus:

Deacon

Helen Cook, to be Curate, St John, Rothiemurchus.

The Scottish Episcopal Church was mistakenly described as the Church of Scotland on a list of ordinations, appointments and resignations published on Tuesday.

Legal appointment

Ms Alison Mary Lewsey to be a full-time chairman of Industrial Tribunals from September 2. She will be assigned to the London North Region.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr S.M. Bleay and Dr D.A. Pullen
The engagement is announced between Stephen Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Donald Bleay, of Southgate, London, and Deborah Anne, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Pullen, of Small Heath, Birmingham.

Mr J.K. Dugdale and Dr S.L. Maxwell
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, younger son of Mr and Mrs Keith Dugdale, of Kelling, Norfolk, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Maxwell, of Hasfield, Gloucestershire.

Mr C. Howes and Miss C. Dossor
The Revd and Mrs Haley Dossor, of Hadleigh, Suffolk, announce the engagement of their daughter, Clare, to Mr Christopher Howes, of Alresford, Hampshire.

Mr R.E.C. Walsh and Miss J. Higham
The engagement is announced between Robert, second son of Mr and Mrs P. Walsh, of Appleton, Cheshire, and Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs P.J. Higham, of Appleton, Cheshire.

Mr J.A.G. Waters and Miss C.J.C. Batchelor
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Graham Waters, of Rolvenden, Kent, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Batchelor, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr A.J. Wickham and Miss M.S. Rawling
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs John Wickham, of Evesham, Worcestershire, and Sarah, daughter of Revd and Mrs S. Rawling, of Bloxwich, West Midlands.

Mr A.E.H. Butler and Miss R.Z.P.H. Pell
The engagement is announced between Ashley, elder son of Mr Simon Butler, of Southill, Chagford, Devon, and of the late the Hon Mrs Joanna Butler, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Pell, of Lewis Cottage, Spreyton, Devon.

Mr A.J.G. Rooke and Miss S. Erdal
The engagement is announced between Alexander, eldest son of Judge and Mrs Giles Rooke, of Bridge, and Saime, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Hasan Erdal, of Ankara, where the marriage will take place on August 3, 1996.

Marriages

Mr E.R.P. Baring and Miss M.V. Stanton
The marriage took place yesterday at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, of Mr Edward Baring, son of Mr Thomas Baring and the Hon Mrs Sarah Baring, to Miss Marianne Stanton, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Lawrence Stanton. Father Anthony Meredith, SJ, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by William Stanton, Michael Ede and Carina and Chelsea McLaim. Mr Edward Donne was best man.

A reception was held at Claridge's Hotel and the honeymoon was spent in Brazil.

Mr R. Johnson and Miss L.M. Rees
The marriage took place on Friday, July 5, 1996, at Lake Tahue, USA, of Mr Robin Johnson and Miss Lucy Rees.

Royal College of Art

The Earl of Snowdon, Provost of the Royal College of Art, presided over Convocation on Friday, July 5, 1996, at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

Honorary Doctorates of the College were conferred upon: Sir Terence Conran, Mr Claes Oldenburg, Mme Charlotte Perriand.

Senior Fellowships of the College were conferred upon: Ms Gillian Ayres, Mr Martin Hunt, Professor Anthony Jones, Professor Vico Magistretti, Mr Nicholas Serota.

Honorary Fellowships of the College were conferred upon: Ms Inge Cordsen, Mr Garth Clark, Mr Alf Dunn, Ms Delfina Entrecanales, Ms Susan Kasen Summer, Professor Gillian Naylor, Mr John Norris Wood, Professor John Steer.

Fellowships of the College were conferred upon: Ms Dinah Casson, Mr Roger Coleman, Ms Prue Bramwell-Davis, Ms Henrietta Goodden, Mr David Hiscock, Ms Gill Plummer, Mr Richard Rome, Mr Patrick White.

Church services tomorrow

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Rejoice in the Lord (Amor). The Provost; 4 Choral E, Stanford in C, Blessed city heavenly Salem (Bairstow); 7 Serv for Pilgrimage to English Cathedrals.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn). The Provost; 11 Sermon Day, Greater Love (Ireland). The Provost; 4 Choral E, Ubi caritas (Easdale). Canon A Hindley.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 11 Holy Euch, Missa Brevis in D minor K65 (Mozart), Rev M Batchelor; 3.30 E, The Eighth Service (Weelkes). I was glad when they said unto me (Parry).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), The Dean of Truro; 3.30 Choral E, Dyson in D, They that go down to the sea (Sumsion). Canon A Redfern.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Save bride me welcome (Tavener), The Dean; 3.15 E, Vanne in D, Opem nobis (Palestrina); 6.30 Compline, Rev P Brett.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Schubert in G, Chorale No 3 in A minor (Franck), Canon D Weston; 3 E, Ireland in F, Thou O God art praised in Zion (Boyce).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC, Rev I Moody; 9.30 Euch, The Provost; 11.15 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor, Agnus Dei, Rt Rev J Johnson; 6 Choral E, Rose in C minor, Be strong and of a good courage (Darke), Canon D Knight.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Ordination with Rite A Euch, Jackson in G (Francis), Almighty and everlasting God (Gibbons); 2 Sunday School Prizegiving; 3.30 Choral E, Andrews in D, If the Lord had not helped me (Bairstow); 5.30 E, Canon T Dennis: 8 People to People concert.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Ireland in F, Hear the voice and prayer (Tallis), The Precentor; 11 S Euch, Messe Solenelle, Prevent us O Lord (Byrd), The Priest Vicar; 3.30 E, First Service (Morley), But have been found again (Burgon).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M & Sermon, Collegium Regale (Howells), The Archdeacon of Oxford; 11.15 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), O taste and see (Vaughan Williams), Canon Ward; 6 E, Stanford in A, Blessed city (Bairstow).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Communion; 10.30 Euch, Missa Salve Regina (Langlais), O Lord increase my faith (Loosemore), Canon P Oesterreicher; 5.30 E, Blair in B minor, Let the people praise (Mathias).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon M Perry; 10 M, The Short Service (Byrd), Almighty God which hast me brought (Ford); 11.15 HC, Missa super Bell' amfitrit' altera (Lassus), Sacerdote Domini (Byrd), Canon D Hodgson; 3 Church Lads & Girls Annual Brigade; 3.30 E, Gray in F minor, Vox dicentis: Clama (Naylor).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC, The Precentor; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Walton), Remember not Lord our offences (Purcell), Ave verum corpus (Mozart), The Dean; 3.45 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), Christus factus est (Bruckner).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Sumsion in F, Ave verum corpus (Mozart); 11.15 Te Deum, Statham in F, Be strong and of good courage, Canon Ison; 3 E, A song of wisdom (Stanford); 6.30 E, Chants 14 & 17, Evening Hymn (Gardiner), The Priest Vicar.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon T Chanter; 9.45 S Euch, Spatzenmesse (Mozart), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Canon D M Palmer; 11.15 M, Jubilate (Tomkins), Praise the Lord ye gentiles (Byrd), Rev J Clark; 6.30 E, Gloucester Service (Howells), I was glad (Parry), Canon Dr M Palmer.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Lourdes, Jesu joyance of my heart (Akerman), The Chancellor; 4 EP.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Collegium Regale (Howells), Jubilate (Howells), One thing I have desired from the Lord (Sumsion), The Precentor; 3.30 E, Blair in B minor, Greater love hath no man than this (Ireland).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Agnus Dei (Missa In Simplicitate), (Langlais), Jesu, joy of man's desiring (Bach), Rev A Duce; 11.15 M, Stanford in B flat, Lord for thy tender mercies' sake (Hilton); 3.45 E, Stanford in A.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Euch, The Dean; 3 Choral E, Canon N Vincent; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Litany; 8,12 Holy Euch, Rev Dr J Baldwin; 9 Parish Euch, Rev Dr J Baldwin; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Lord I am not high-minded (Piccolo), The Dean; 3.30 Choral E, Stanford in C, For to I raise up (Stanford); 6.30 Parish E & Sermon, Rev N Court.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass in G minor, Canon A Radcliffe; 3 Norwest Co-operative Thanksgiving; 5.30 E, Stanford in C, The King of Love (Bairstow), Canon A Radcliffe.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 Family Euch, My song in love unknown (Archer); 6.30 E, Noble in A minor, Blessed city heavenly Salem (Bairstow), The sweet rivelet (Jackson).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.15 HC; 10.30 Ordination of Priests, Canon D Hayden; 3.30 Ordination of Deacons, Canon W Stewart; 6.30 E, Dr T Jenkins.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M & Litany; 10.30 Ordination, Jackson in G, The spirit of the Lord (Elgar), Canon V White; 3.30 E, Sumsion in G, Benil quorum via (Stanford), Canon Dr M Palmer.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, Canon P Marshall; 9.30 Parish Euch, Sumsion in F, Christus facrus est (Anerio), Rev D Murfet; 11 Ordination of Deacons, Darke in F, Litany (Moore), O Lord give thy Holy Spirit (Tallis), Very Rev R Ayer; 12.30 Euch, Dean Leslie Weatherhead; 6.30 E, Willan in E flat, O sing unto the Lord (Purcell), Canon M Glanville-Smith.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon J Osborne; 10 Euch, Missa Brevis in D, K194, Christus factus est (Anerio), Canon J Davies; 11.30 M, Te Deum in B flat (Purcell), Jubilate in C (Boyce), Turn back O man (Holst), Dr D Downing; 3 E, Stanford in G, Faire is the heaven (Harris).

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Kleine orgelmesse (Haydn), Ave verum (Byrd), Canon J Sinclair; 6.30 E & Sermon, Second Service (Gibbons); Hail gladdening light (Wood), Ven M Paton.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, The Provost; 11 Choral Euch, Darke in F, Let all the world (Vaughan Williams), Nunc dimittis (Burgon), Rev R Royle; 3 Choral E, St John's Service (Tippett), Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley), Rev H Cunliffe; 6.30 Book of Common Prayer (1662); Choral Euch, Stanford in B flat, Expectans expectavi (Wood), Ave verum (Saint-Saens), Rev A Nunn.

SOUTHWELL MINISTER: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C, Canon Austin; 11 M, Jubilate (Walton), Haec Dies (Palestrina), The Precentor; 3.15 E, St Paul's Service (Howells), Hail gladdening light (Wood), The Bishop.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 MP; 10 S Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn), Ubi caritas (Durufle), The Librarian; 6 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), And I saw a new heaven (Balnton), Canon A Neal.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 10.30 Ordination of Deacons & Priests & S Euch, Coronation Mass in C (Mozart), Rev Dr J Harvey; 3 E, The Gloucester Service (Howells), Hear my words ye people (Parry), Rev P de N Lucas.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Te Deum and Jubilate in B flat (Stanford), Like as the hart (Howells), Canon C Semper; 11.15 Euch, Mass (1651) (Monteverdi), Adoramus te (Monteverdi), O Domine Jesu Christe (Gabrieli), The Dean; 3 E, Sumsion in G, Blessed in G, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley), K Wenherald; 5.45 (Sung); Euch, 6.30 E, Rev J Gladwin.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 Mass; 10 MP; 10.30 Solemn Mass, Mass in C (Schubert), The heavens are telling (Haydn), See the word is incarnate (Gibbons), Scherzo (Vierne); 3.30 Solemn Vespers & Benediction, Magnificat primi toni (Victoria), I was glad (Parry), Finale from Symphony VI (Vierne); 4.30 Recital, (R Jeffcoat).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Te Deum in B flat, O hearken thou (Elgar), Rev K Walker; 11.30 Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Acclamations (Suite Medievale), 3.30 Re-dedication of Royal British Legion, Lord thou hast been our refuge (Vaughan Williams), Fanfare (J Cook); 5.30 E.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Jackson in G, Rev M Heggs; 11.30 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd); 12.30 Royal Air Force Association; 4 E, Stanford in A, Bring us O Lord God (Stanford), Rev P Ferguson; 7.30 Concert by Gothic Voices.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Hymne a la Vierge (Villette), Rev R Griffiths; 3.30 Choral E, Sumsion in G, Hail gladdening light (Wood).

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 9.30 Parish Euch, The Succentor; 11.15 Choral M, Ireland in F, Jesu the very thought (Bairstow), The Dean; 6 Choral E, Walmisley in D minor, Almighty and everlasting God (Gibbons), The Canon.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Morning HC, Rev D Robertson; 10 Morning HC, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Very Rev J Weatherhead; 11.30 Morning Service, O all ye people clap your hands (Purcell), Very Rev J Weatherhead; 6 E, Giles in Six, Recital, H Wallace; 8 Evening Service, Rev J Williams.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Mass in C (Beethoven), Ave verum corpus (Mozart), The Dean; 3.15 E, Laudibus in sanctis (Byrd), Rev M Seward.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 Communion; 11 Communion, Preb R Bewes; 6.30 Rev R Tice.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa simile est regnum (Vittoria), Locus iste (Bruckner), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children; 11 Parish C, Rev P Elvy; 6 E, Rev D Royce.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Cowgit Garden, WC2: 11.15, 12.20, 6.30 Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Rev S Millar; 11 Family, Mrs S De Carvalho; 5.7.30 Informal, Mr T Sillwell.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11, Rev F Ronald Crewes.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30, Rev Dr M Eggleton.

ST ALBAN'S CONTINUING CHURCH OF ENGLAND, Chatham, Kent: 9.45 MP; 10.30 Sung Mass & Sermon.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P Schmiege; 2 Swahili HC, Rev J Shabaya; 7 Choral M, Missa Brevis for soprano solo with organ, Rev P Schmiege.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Western Wind Mass (Taverner), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Ireland in C, O pray for the pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Howells), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Short Service (Byrd), O Lord the maker of all thing (Goudert), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), I sat down under his shadow (Bairstow), Rev P Bishop.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev W Cairns; 3 Earl Haig Service, Rev A Cairns; 6.30 Rev C MacLeod.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rheinberger in E flat, The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch (1662), John Paul, Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Si la face ay pale (Lassus), Sacerdotes domini (Byrd), Rev A Meldrum; 6 Choral E, Fauxbourdons (Moore), Lux ecy complaint (Morley).

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev M Robins; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family C, Carillon de Westminster (Vierne), Rev D Richards; 6.30 Celebration, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8.12 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Salvator Mundi (Blow), Rev D Watson; 6.30 E, When David heard (Tomkins), Rev G Beauchamp.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch with Holy Bapusm, Ireland in C, Ave verum (Mozart), Rev T Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Canon D Hunt.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8.12.30 HC, Rev W Raichford; 9.45 Euch, Rev C Herbert; 11.30 Visitors, Rev B Schunemann; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee; 5 Choral E; 6.30 Evening, The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8.12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, The Vicar; 11.15 Choral M, Rev F Gelli; 6.30 E, Rev P Gelli.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9,10.7 LM; 11 HM & Outdoor Procession of Our Lady & Solemn Benediction, Mass in C (Bruckner), Fr B Scott; 6 E.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Salve Regina (Byrd), Rev J Ovenden; 6 EP.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa cum Jubilo (Durufle), Au matin (Vierne), Hymne d'Actlun de Grace Te Deum (Langlais), Fr D Tillyer.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M & Sermon, Te Deum, short Service (Gibbons), Benedictus, Thou wilt keep him (Wesley), 3 E, Byrd in falsibordone by Parsons and 3 7, Grant O Holy Trinity (Gibbons), Canon J G M W Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Mass in Four Parts (Byrd), The Ven D N Griffiths.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC (1662); 11 Choral Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Lord thou hast been our refuge (Vaughan Williams); 3.30 E, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams), Brewer in D, They that go down to the sea in ships (Sumsion).

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Darke in E, The Chaplain.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Te Deum (Lindahm), Collegium Regale, Jubilate Deo (Howells), Collegium Regale, Faire is the heaven (Harris), The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Choral HC, Mass in C (Mozart), Be still my soul (Whitlock), Band of the Coldstream Guards, Sjt J Hornby.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch (BCP), Ireland in C, They that do down to sea in ships (Attwood), Rev C French.

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For you are a people holy to the Lord your God, and he has chosen you out of all peoples on earth to be his special possession.
Deuteronomy 7 : 6 (REB)

BIRTHS

ANASTAWI - On June 21st, 1996 at The Portland Hospital, to Sivin and Sari a healthy baby boy Maher a brother for Ayah.

BLUMSOM - On June 27th 1996, to Jacqui (née Godfrey) and Giles, a daughter Georgina Lucy, a sister for Kate and Karis.

BULLEN - On July 4th, to Chantal and Guy, a daughter Elizabeth Anne Ruth, a sister for Tim.

CLARK - On July 3rd, to Kate (née Hooper) and John, a son Oscar, a brother for Christian and Louis.

FACON - On July 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Nicola (née Ferrier) and Bertrand, a beautiful son Thomas.

FREYTAG - On July 1st at The Portland Hospital, Kristen and Thomas welcome their son Nathan William, 7lbs 15oz, a brother for Dylan.

MALAS

OBITUARIES

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL RALPH CARR

Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Carr, DSO and Bar, MBE, wartime sapper, died on June 19 aged 82. He was born on March 14, 1914.



IN A war of almost nonstop combat during which he won two DSOs and was three times wounded, (the last time almost fatally), Ralph Carr participated in almost every campaign against the Axis, and one against the Vichy French. He fought the Italians in the Western Desert, the Germans in Greece and the French in Syria and Lebanon. He was involved in the defeat of the Axis in North Africa and the D-Day landings, and battled his way through the Normandy campaign, before leading his sappers in the final pursuit over the frontiers of the Reich.

He survived several brushes with death, some of which were very close. A German sniper trying to pick him off in the *bocage* around Caen in 1944 later complained after being captured that he would have been able to shoot Carr dead had the RAF not previously bombed the Zeiss optical factory at Jena, thus depriving him of the precision sight with which his rifle should have been fitted.

Having been thus indirectly saved by the RAF, Carr was, ironically, almost killed by a British air attack seven months later. While clearing mines from the suburbs of Goch in the North Rhine plain, during the 51st (Highland) Division's push for the river, his unit was accidently hit by an RAF strike intended for the forward positions of the enemy. Wounded in the head by a bomb splinter, Carr suffered serious brain injury and lay unconscious for a month. Given only a 50-50 chance of surviving, he was nevertheless evacuated to Britain where a series of operations enabled him to make a partial recovery, though his military career was effectively terminated.

Born into a military family in Burma, Henry Ralph Carr was brought up there, in Ireland and in Worcestershire after his father retired from the Army. After going to school at Repton he entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, in 1932 and was commissioned into the Royal Engineers two years later. In 1936 he took a degree in Mechanical Sciences at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Almost immediately he was sent to Palestine where an emergency had arisen over Arab attacks on Jewish rural settlements. With road, rail and telephone communications under threat, Carr's duties involved escorting supply trains.

The emergency over, he stayed in the Middle East and was in Egypt when Italy entered the war in June 1940. He then took part in the campaign which began with the Italian invasion of Egypt in September 1940 and ended with the complete destruction of Marshal Graziani's army in the Cyrenaican deserts in February 1941. Carr was appointed MBE (military) for his role on the staff of 13 Corps, which drove the Italians back beyond Benghazi.

Scarcely had the dust of this campaign settled than Carr was sent to Greece in pursuance of Churchill's somewhat fanciful notion of creating a Balkan front against the Axis. Arriving in the Salonika plain, Carr quickly perceived that the primitive Greek army could in fact be no match in the open field for the mobile columns of the Wehrmacht. He and his sappers did as much as they could to hamper the German advance, blowing up bridges and mining roads. But the British were soon recoiling southwards and Carr was eventually evacuated to Alexandria in the destroyer *Zulu* in May 1941.

By June he was back in battle, this time against the French in Syria. In a bitterly fought campaign the forces of the Vichy were faced by their Free French compatriots, as well as by British, Australian, Senegalese and French Indo-Chinese troops and the Arab Legion. Carr served with a polyglot force which pursued the Vichy French to Damascus and then swung eastwards to Beirut.

During his time in Syria and the Lebanon, affairs in North Africa had been taking a very different turn, with the arrival of Rommel and the Afrika Korps and when he went back to the theatre in September 1942 it was with Axis forces in Egypt once more, poised only 35 miles from Alexandria. But the tide was about to turn for the last time.



Ralph Carr, left, and the painting by Terence Cuneo of sappers under fire, clearing minefields at Alamein, October 23, 1942

At El Alamein, Carr commanded a new sapper unit, the 21st Field Squadron, which found itself in the thick of the fighting on the first night of the battle as it tried to clear mines which were holding up an infantry advance. A dramatic painting by Terence Cuneo well captures the desperation of the situation as both attacking infantry and sappers took heavy casualties from a hail of 88mm shells and machinegun fire. Nevertheless, in this and in the subsequent pursuit of the Afrika Corps, Carr's unit thoroughly distinguished itself in the numbers of mines it cleared, and he was awarded an immediate DSO. Later in the North African campaign he received the first of his wounds when he trod on a German three-pronged antipersonnel mine. Fortunately he instantly realised what he had done and was able (as he had always advised his men) to throw himself flat on the ground, thus escaping almost certain mutilation and confining the effects of the subsequent burst to damage to his leg.

In November 1943 Carr got back to Britain for the first time since he had been on leave in 1938. But he was soon in training with the 51st (Highland) Division for the projected Normandy invasion. From D-Day until the end of his war in February 1945 he was involved in some of the toughest fighting with the division — on the Orne bridgehead, in the battle for Caen and in the bitterly contested slog through Holland in the vilest of weather. He was also a part of the countermeasures against Hitler's *Herbstnebel* (Autumn Fog) offensive in the Ardennes in December 1944, and fought in the internecine battle to clear the Reichswald, west of the Rhine. The last was largely a sapper battle, and for his leadership in completing a bridge over the River Niers under heavy shellfire Carr won a Bar to his DSO.

He never really recovered from the severe head wound he sustained shortly afterwards. In 1946 he took an engineering course to try to ease himself back into his Army career. But he still required hospital treatment at intervals and after two more appointments on the Intelligence staff he finally retired from the Army on a disability pension in 1951.

Thereafter he farmed in the North of England, breeding cattle and growing crops. He published his memoir, *A Sapper's War*, in 1994.

His wife Hester predeceased him and he is survived by two daughters.

PAMELA MASON

Pamela Mason, author and actress, died in Beverly Hills, California, on June 29 aged 80. She was born in London on March 10, 1916.



THERE could hardly have been a greater contrast between Pamela Mason and her former husband, the actor James Mason. Where he was taciturn, she was garrulous, to the extent that she was once described as having been "vaccinated with a phonograph needle." He was a Cambridge graduate with a degree in architecture; she left her private school at the age of nine, and claimed that "education only confuses the mind". Yet despite their superficial differences, the couple stayed together for 23 years before their divorce in 1964.

Pamela had been raised by her wealthy businessman father to make the most of her talents. She wrote novels, screenplays, acted and hosted chat shows. She was christened Pamela Helen Ostrer, and was, like many actresses of her generation, deliberately vague about her age. Her father was one of two Jewish brothers from the East End of London, who founded and built up one of the greatest textile businesses in the country.

Isidore Ostrer also had interests in films, and his position no doubt eased his precocious daughter into her first screen role in 1934. That she succeeded so well in it was entirely because of her own merits. Not only did she look good, but her vivacious personality made her positively shimmer on screen. The cameraman on *Jew Suss* was Roy Kellino, with whom she developed a youthful passion. They were married soon afterwards.

She met Mason in 1939. He was then an up-and-coming actor, and a former architect, who had already caught the eye of Alexander Korda. He became friendly with the Kellinos and moved in with them. They pooled their resources and Pamela and Mason together wrote the screenplay for *I Met a Murderer*. They also took the two leading roles when it came to the shooting, Mason playing the murderer, and Pamela the girl he meets on the run. Roy Kellino directed and shot the film, doing his best work photographing them together. Sadly for him the electricity between the actors on set was being duplicated away from it.

Mason and Pamela fell passionately in love and were married in 1941, after her amicable divorce from Kellino.

By 1946 James Mason was the leading star of the British cinema and Pamela moved with him to Hollywood, together with their 12 cats. She had already begun writing, publishing her first novel, *This Little Hand*, in 1942, *Del Palma* in 1944, and *The Blinds are Down* (1946). She resumed her acting career, appearing with her husband in the Broadway production of *Bathsheba* and in about twenty film roles over the years.

During the 1950s the couple appeared on television in the *James Mason Show*, and Pamela, fittingly for such a garrulous woman, went on to host two talk shows of her own: the *Pamela Mason Show* and *The Weaker Sex*. It was about this time that she published *The Female Pleasure Hunt*, and *Marriage is the First Step Towards Divorce*, which proved prophetic. Her divorce settlement with Mason made her a million dollars and was, he later complained, the reason why he subsequently had to appear in so many bad films. Pamela blamed the marital breakdown, simply, on two people growing apart. Mason had become more ambitious, less reserved himself as the years went by. He no longer needed his extrovert wife to hold the floor for him: "I think I rather wore James down," she said.

There was one final chapter to the very public career of Pamela Mason. In 1975 her father died, leaving her the major shareholder of the Yorkshire-based Illingworth Morris Group — which employed around 10,000 people — making her one of the most powerful women in textiles. She displayed aggressive business instincts and a competitive spirit. However, she also made some questionable decisions and her autocratic management style did not make her much liked in the business. By 1981, her relations with the rest of her cousins and stepsister, who also had stakes in the business, had degenerated to breaking point. She sold up her shares, for a good price, and was voted off the board.

She continued to live in her rambling mansion in Beverly Hills (the drive became known as Pamela Drive). Her last screen role was in the 1985 television production of *My Wicked, Wicked Ways: the Legend of Errol Flynn*. James Mason died in 1984 and Pamela Mason is survived by their son and daughter.

RONNIE PRICE

Ronnie Price, jazz pianist, died on June 25 aged 72. He was born on August 9, 1923.



MUCH more than a jazz pianist, Ronnie Price was probably one of the most versatile musicians on the session scene for more than three decades. Heard on numerous television themes such as *Ever Decreasing Circles*, the face might not have been familiar but the hands certainly were. They were seen weekly on one of television's most popular light entertainment shows, *Name That Tune*.

Encouraged by his parents (his mother played piano in their local church), Ronald Frederick Price took his first piano lessons at the age of eight and was soon entering and winning "Go As You Please" talent contests in the Manchester area.

On leaving school at 15 he became an apprentice draughtsman in an engineering factory, in what was to be designated a deferred occupation on the outbreak of the Second World War. During the war years he formed his own sextet playing dance gigs in the Manchester area and in 1947 turned professional to join the Teddy Foster Band.

His younger brother Derek, who had opted for the drums, soon joined him and after a couple of years the two of them moved on and up, to what was one of the top jazz groups of the day, the Tito Burns Sextet. After four years of touring, both at home and abroad, the brothers joined the resident band at the American Services Club in Regents Park, their last shared band before going their separate ways.

According to his brother, Ronnie was always ambitious. Whatever he wanted in life he achieved, and his next move to Sidney Lipton's band at Grosvenor House marked the start of another shift in the upward spiral of his career.

Peter Knight, who was arranging for Sidney Lipton at that time, booked Price for his first studio recording session. This taste of the versatility needed to compete in the session field, prompted him to sign on at the Harrow School of Music to learn more about classical music and study arranging.

It was time and money well spent. Price emerged from the school able to read and play anything that was placed in front of him.

He became one of the elite band of musicians booked for all the top television shows: *The Two Ronnies*, *The Generation Game*, the shows of Val Doonican and Cilla Black as well as sessions in the film studios working with Nelson Riddle, Henry Mancini and John Barry. He can be heard on the sound tracks of the Pink Panther and James Bond films.There were also recording sessions with Sammy Davis Jr (from midnight to three in the morning to fit in with the Davis schedule), Andy Williams, Petula Clark, Fred Astaire and Bing Crosby, whom he accompanied on his last appearance at the London Palladium in 1977.

His West End theatre work included *Follies*, in which he was required to act as well as play on stage, *Carmen Jones* at the Old Vic and *Piaf*.

As Anne Shelton's musical director, he was at the annual Not Forgotten Association performances at Buckingham Palace and accompanied Eartha Kitt on many of her cabaret appearances. He earnt the reputation of being a sympathetic accompanist as well as a great soloist.

Featured as such with the BBC Concert Orchestra on Radio 2's *Friday Night is Music Night*, he also broadcast on occasions with the BBC Big Band as well as the Don Lusher Big Band, with whom he was the featured pianist up until the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife Jo and two sons from a previous marriage.

ROBERT PRINGLE

Robert Pringle, OBE, co-founder of Nuclear Enterprises, died on June 10 aged 76. He was born on May 2, 1920.

ROBERT PRINGLE was a physicist who made a fortune in the new medical technologies. He had a knack, amounting almost to genius, of developing equipment which would create large markets to be pursued by later and bigger players. His career showed how the academic and the commercial worlds could reinforce each other. His unusual combination of intellectual and commercial abilities allowed him spectacularly to profit from work which he, and others, had pioneered.

Robert William Pringle was born in Edinburgh and educated at George Heriot's School. At Edinburgh University he was the Vans Dunlop scholar in natural philosophy and was appointed a lecturer in 1945, developing an interest in applied nuclear physics and geophysics. In 1947 he went to Manitoba University, as Associate Professor and then Professor of Physics.

North American universities now increasingly control, through tight contracts, the commercial applications of staff research. But in 1956, in those more informal days, Pringle was able to return to Edinburgh with two Canadian colleagues and set up Nuclear Enterprises (NE) of which he was chairman and managing director. The company specialised in nucleonic instrumentation and medical diagnostics and developed an electronic body scanner which became widely used. The company twice won the Queen's Award to Industry.

EMI, at that time active in medical diagnostics, acquired control of NE in 1976. It was particularly interested in NE's non-invasive diagnostic scanners using ultra-sound. These complemented the cat-scanner developed in the EMI laboratories by a 1979 Nobel prize-winner Sir Godfrey Hounsfield. But speculations proved both expensive and ultimately unsuccessful.

Thorn EMI, as the merged company became in 1979, decided to get out of this sector and as part of a general rationalistion NE was sold to its management, now headquartered at Beenham, Berkshire, in 1987. Market shifts drove the successor company, NE Technology, in new directions. The Edinburgh site was retained as a manufacturing plant but closed in 1995 after NE had been acquired by the French Compagnie de St Gobin. It was at this time that Pringle finally sold his stake and moved as a tax exile to Monaco.

He served on many committees, including science research councils, the Scottish council of the CBI and Edinburgh University Court. He timed his trips home — rationed by tax restrictions — to coincide with important rugby games. He had been a talented hooker in his youth, playing at district level and, though a trialist, just missing an international cap. He was president of Manitoba Rugby Union and rugby also gave him an excuse to entertain his friends at his house in l'Avenue Princesse Grace in Monte Carlo, where he organised the sevens in 1987.

He was a fellow of the Royal Societies of Edinburgh and Canada, publishing papers on nuclear spectroscopy and nuclear geophysics in British and American journals. His other great passions were golf and book-collecting, and he collaborated on a book on 20th-century Scottish bank notes, of which there was a colourful multiplicity before amalgamations thinned the number of indigenous institutions to a handful.

He is survived by his wife Carol, whom he married in 1948, and by three sons and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANIMALS IN NEED

Please help us give unwanted cats in distress and abandoned cats and dogs and birds, whose lives did so far satisfactorily ill. Our sanctuary provides daily forest walks for dogs, plus a neutering service in the poorer city areas. We enjoy our stay.

Donations to:
WOODSIDE ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST,
Blandslap, Plymouth PL7 5EB
(Reg Charity No 258766).

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 3478 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF TIBBETT & BRITTEN GROUP PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 20 June 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, London for the confirmation that the Share Premium Account of the Company at 1st January 1996 of £9,406,231 be cancelled.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar in the Chancery Division at The Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand, London on 17 July 1996 at 10.30 a.m.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said cancellation of Share Premium Account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition shall be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors, on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED this 6th day of July 1996

Eversheds
10 Newhall Street
Birmingham
B3 3LX
Solicitors for the above-named Company
Ref: SAN/105
Tel: 0121 233 2001

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 3478 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF TIBBETT & BRITTEN GROUP PLC
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ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said cancellation of Share Premium Account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition shall be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors, on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED this 6th day of July 1996

Eversheds
10 Newhall Street
Birmingham
B3 3LX
Solicitors for the above-named Company
Ref: SAN/105
Tel: 0121 233 2001

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 003550/96
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF LUPUS COURT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition was on 12 June 1996 presented to her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of reduction of the capital of the said Company from £25 to £24.

AND NOTICE is further given that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2 on Wednesday 17 July 1996.

Any creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requesting the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 27th day of June 1996
Dennis Matthews
of 145 Aperley Road, London.
SE20 8BD
Solicitors for the above Company

NOTICE OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER

Name of Company: International Christian Link Ltd
Number of Company: 02679147
Former name of Company registered in last 12 months: N/A
Trading name of Company in last 12 months: N/A
Full names of administrative receiver(s): Kevin James Ellis, Anthony Victor Lomas
Address: Price Waterhouse, No.1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL
Date of Appointment: 3 July 1996
Appointer: National Westminster Bank Plc
Nature and date of instrument conferring power to appoint: Debenture dated 30 March 1992
Short description of assets of the company (if any) to which appointment does not apply: None
Signed this 5 July
K.J. Ellis
Joint Administrative Receiver
KE/CW/C/YA#3001/1041E

LEGAL NOTICES

CREDITORS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
INTENDED DIVIDEND
NOTICE TO
THE CREDITORS OF
ATLANTIC COMPUTER (FUNDS) LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION) ("ACF")

The Liquidators of Atlantic Computer (Funds) Limited give notice under the provisions of Rule 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that they intend to make an interim dividend to the unsecured creditors of the company within four months of the notice date.

Creditors who have not already done so, must send details in writing of any claim against the company to the liquidators Richard Claude Boys-Stones and John Francis Soden of Price Waterhouse at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by Friday 2 August 1996 which is the last day for submitting claims. A Creditor who does not make a claim by that date will not be included in the proposed interim distribution.

RC Boys-Stones
Joint Liquidator

ROBERT A. RUSHTON & COMPANY LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at Price Waterhouse, Union Street, London, SE1 1SZ on Wednesday 17 July 1996, at 11.00am. The purposes of the meeting are to receive a statement of affairs and a report on the company from a director, and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidation committee.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection at the company's offices at 190 St Albans Road, Watford WD2 4AT and at the offices of Price Waterhouse at No 1, London Bridge, London SE1 9QL on 15 July and 16 July 1996.

Dated 3 July 1996
By order of the Board
RA Rushton
Director
Notes
Any creditor who has not received notice of the meeting and who wishes to attend or be represented at it should ring Sarah Galbally 0171 939 4105 to obtain the necessary forms.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
ASHWAY DEVELOPMENTS (GLASGOW) LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
REGISTERED NO: 1165189
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of Ashway Developments (Glasgow) Limited will be held at 10.00am on 24 July 1996 at the offices of Price Waterhouse, 74 Mosley Street, Manchester, M2 3EH, for the purposes mentioned in Section 48 and 49 of the said Act.

Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must provide details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company to I C Powell at Price Waterhouse, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS by no later than 12.00 noon on 23 July 1996 whereby secured any proof which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf at the meeting. Any claims duly lodged will be admitted to vote subject to the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting.

Creditors should note that the meeting is not for the purpose of appointing a liquidator to the company.

Dated this twenty sixth day of June 1996
I C Powell
Joint Administrative Receiver

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
FAX: 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the following person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

JULIA PHYLLIS LEONARD JOHN BAKER of 6 Grove Court, Circus Road, London NW8 9EN died on 11th May 1996 particulars to Underwood & co Solicitors of 40 Welbeck Street, London W1M 8LN before 10th September 1996

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND BENEFICIARIES TO SEND IN CLAIMS UNDER TRUSTEE ACT 1925 SECTION 27
Re CHARLES ST. GEORGE MAYOWELL, Deceased

PURSUANT to the Trustee Act 1925 NOTICE is given that all creditors and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested in the estate of Charles St. George Mayowell late of 18 Princess Court Bryanston Place London W1 who died on the 17th day of February 1996 and whose Will was proved in the Principal Registery of the Family Division on the 11th day of June 1996 by Alison Rebecca Gill and Anthony Salmon the executors named in it are required to send particulars in writing to the undersigned solicitors on or before the 6th day of September 1996 after which date the said executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the persons entitled to them having regard to the claims of which they then have had notice and shall not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part of them so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands they then have not had notice.

DATED the 27th day of June 1996
Mirams Palmer & Cowen
16 Berkeley Street
London W1X 6AE
Ref:AM/M51.001
Solicitors for the Executors

WONDERFUL EFFECTS OF GALVANISM.

John White, convicted of the murder of Messrs. Gwatkin and Glenn, on board a flat boat on the Ohio river, was executed at Louisville, United States, on the 8th ult, a little *after 6 o'clock in the morning*... He was cut down after hanging about 25 minutes, and his body given to the doctors for the purposes of experiment. The *Louisville City Gazette* gives the annexed extraordinary circumstances attending an experiment with the galvanic battery: "The poles of a powerful galvanic pile, which had been prepared for the occasion were immediately applied to him, and, to the unutterable joy of all present, with the most perfect success. On the first application of the field to his body, which was yet warm and trembling, a universal tremor was seen to pass over his frame: on a sudden he arose from the bench to a sitting posture, and with great eagerness and impatience raised his hand to his neck, trying to grasp the scarf in his fingers and tear it from his throat. He first snatched at it with great harshness, as though the rope was yet around his neck, and then continued some moments picking at the seam with his fingers, as though it was something that adhered to his throat giving him a great uneasiness. But this was soon forgotten, for almost the next moment he rose upon his feet, raised his arms level with his breast, and, opening his bloodshot eyes, gave forth from his mouth a most terrific screech, after which his chest worked as if in respiration in a very violent manner ... He seemed perfectly motionless and dead : a surgeon approached, and, taking hold of his arm, announced that he thought he felt a slight beat of the pulse. The galvanic operator was just going to arrange his machine to give him another charge, when the surgeon exclaimed that he breathed. At this moment he gave a long gasp, rising and gently waving his right hand: his sighs continued for two minutes, when they ceased entirely. His whole frame seemed to be agitated, his chest heaved, and his legs trembled. He rolled his eyes wildly in their sockets, occasionally closing them, and giving most terric scowls. In about five minutes his breathing became tolerably frequent, probably he would give one breath where a healthy man would give four. His breathing, however, rapidly increased ... A bottle of hartshorn was immediately applied to his nose, which revived him, but his life seemed to be that of a man much intoxicated. He seemed upon one occasion to try to give utterance to some feeling, but from an unknown cause, an impediment probably occasioned by the execution, he was unable to give utterance to a word. His system was critically examined, and though he was pronounced by the doctors to be perfectly alive, yet he could live but a very few minutes, for congestion of the brain was rapidly taking place. Every method was adopted to equalize the circulation, and save the patient from the terrible consequence of so *sad a catastrophe, but in vain. The blood* vessels of the head were enormously distended, and his eyes appeared to be balls of clotted blood. His system was immediately thrown into direful spasms, and he died in a few minutes in the most excruciating agonies."

ON THIS DAY

July 6, 1841

In the 19th century The Times *rarely lost an opportunity of providing its readers with the most gruesome details of executions, murders and violence. If a "good" story could not be found at home there was always the press from abroad on which to fall back.*

NEWS

Carey's crusade upsets teachers

■ The Archbishop of Canterbury has clashed with teachers after launching a crusade to stop the moral and spiritual decline of the nation. Dr George Carey attacked the view that morality was a matter of taste and complained that God was being banished to the realm of a private hobby. Children needed to be shown the difference between right and wrong, he said ..... **Page 1**

BA walkout could cost £40 million a day

■ British Airways began drawing up emergency plans to keep its fleet of 300 planes in the air during the summer after its pilots said they would go ahead with an all-out strike over pay from July 16. A walkout by more than 3,000 pilots and first officers could cost the company up to £40 million a day ..... **Page 1**

Apostate faces death

A Kuwaiti Islamic court has effectively sentenced a businessman to death for converting from Islam to Christianity ..... **Page 1**

Breakdown warning

Breakdown organisations have been warned that they could be breaking the law if they give priority to rescuing lone ..... **Page 1**

Devolution attacked

John Major tore into Labour's plans for a Scottish Parliament, accusing Tony Blair of "grubbing around for votes" ..... **Page 2**

Horse race stopped

A judge told a mother who has spent hundreds of thousands of pounds to further her daughter's Olympic equestrian ambitions to reign in her spending ..... **Page 3**

Care cut blocked

A council's attempt to save money by cutting care for a disabled child has been blocked by the High Court ..... **Page 7**

Freight plan to halt

A plan for a freight railway line from the Midlands to the Channel Tunnel that has blighted thousands of homes in its path is likely to be killed off by MPs ..... **Page 11**

End of the line

The head of France's railways was remanded in custody over allegations of fraud ..... **Page 13**

Double vision

CNN, smarting over loss of coverage of the Games, is to cover the Olympics from the roof of an Atlanta bar ..... **Page 15**

Canadian Army shock

Canadians are shocked at the behaviour of their soldiers during a peacekeeping mission in Somalia three years ago ..... **Page 16**

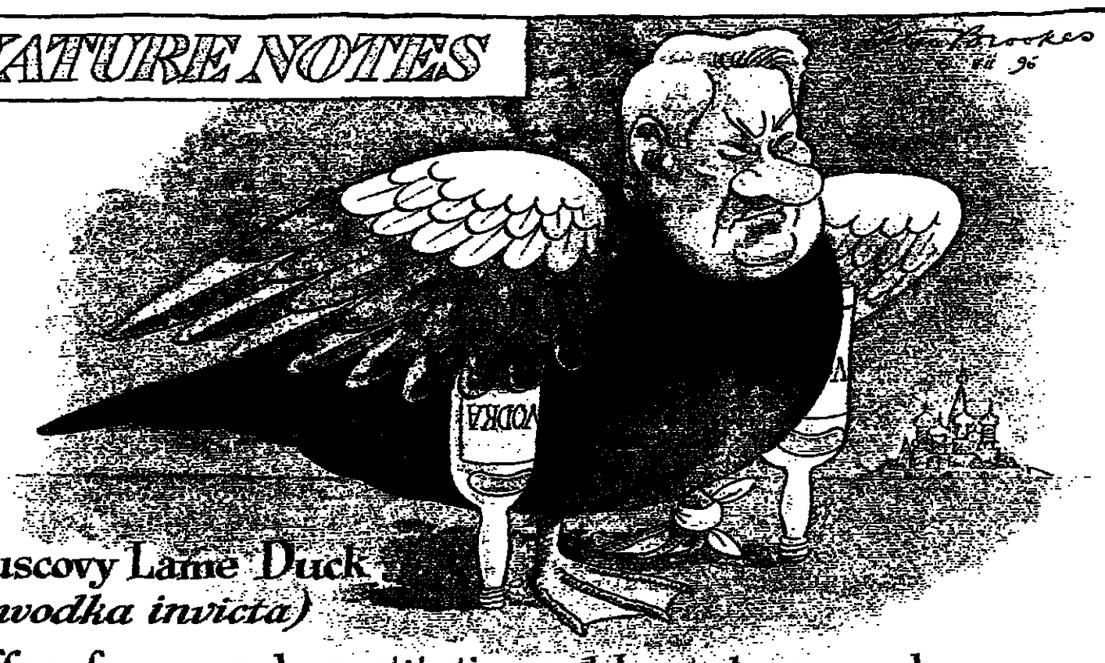
Border détente

With the collapse of Soviet communism and reforms in China, tensions are now easing in Manchuria ..... **Page 17**

Madman faces Antichrist in Ecuador

■ Both are of Lebanese extraction, one styles himself *El Loco* (the madman), while his opponent campaigns as the "Antichrist", and polls have them running neck and neck in tomorrow's Ecuador elections ..... **Page 15**

NATURE NOTES



Muscovy Lame Duck
(Invodka invicta)

Suffers from a weak constitution and has to be propped up. Makes its own Lebed and must now lie on it.

OPINION

The honourable wage: Britons may not love their politicians but someone has to do the job and it should be treated properly ..... **Page 23**

Mandate for Israel: If Mr Netanyahu is to fulfill his pledge to negotiate from strength and continue these welcome developments, he must stamp his authority on his Government ..... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Somme sacrifice; New college loan to monarch; Becket casket; St George; divided by sport ..... **Page 23**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The Archbishop of Canterbury had a fit of morality after Tony Blair had a fit of ideology and John Major covered the Scots with love bites ..... **Page 22**

Jonathan Mirsky: The 75th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party in China was greeted coolly in Peking ..... **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Carr, wartime sapper; **Pamela Mason,** author and actress; **Ronnie Price,** jazz pianist ..... **Page 25**

ARTS

No label: The artist formerly known as Prince has now broken away from his record company, Warners .. **Page 21**

Opera for all: Bringing down ticket prices isn't enough. Covent Garden's productions must appear on television" ..... **Page 19**

Long night: The Young Vic has produced a fine new staging of Eugene O'Neill's classic *Long Day's Journey into Night* ..... **Page 19**

Five on stage: Kurt Vonnegut's novel *Slaughterhouse-5* has been staged as an opera ..... **Page 20**

BUSINESS

National Lottery: One of Camelot's five executive directors is cashing in his chips and leaving ..... **Page 27**

Suing: Bellwinch, the building group, is suing the widow of a former chief executive who saved the company from collapse ..... **Page 27**

Pearl: Pearl Assurance announced that its shareholders were entitled to a payout of nearly £1 billion ..... **Page 27**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 17.4 points to close at 3743.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 86.8 to 86.7 ..... **Page 30**

SPORT

Cricket: England were 32 for no wicket in reply to India's first innings total of 521 in the final Test at Trent Bridge ..... **Page 52**

Tennis: Steffi Graf will be seeking her seventh Wimbledon title when she meets Arantxa Sánchez Vicario in the women's singles final ..... **Page 50**

Football: The chief executive of the PFA warned that the influx of foreign players into the Premiership could stifle the growth of home talent ..... **Page 51**

SECTIONS

New man: Alan Jackson meets Jon Bon Jovi **Page 18**
Animated magic: Disney launches *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* ..... **Page 25**

WEEKEND

Art: Be an art patron for less than £1,000 **Pages 1, 2**



Books: Hottest holiday reading for the summer ..... **Page 13**
Going Out: ..... **Pages 14,15**

10 15

Piece of cake: The *10 15* supplement celebrates its first birthday this weekend ..... **Page 6**



Sir: Letters to *The Times*, BBC2 Thursday, 7.30pm
Film: *Bridge on the River Kwai*, BBC2 Sunday 155pm

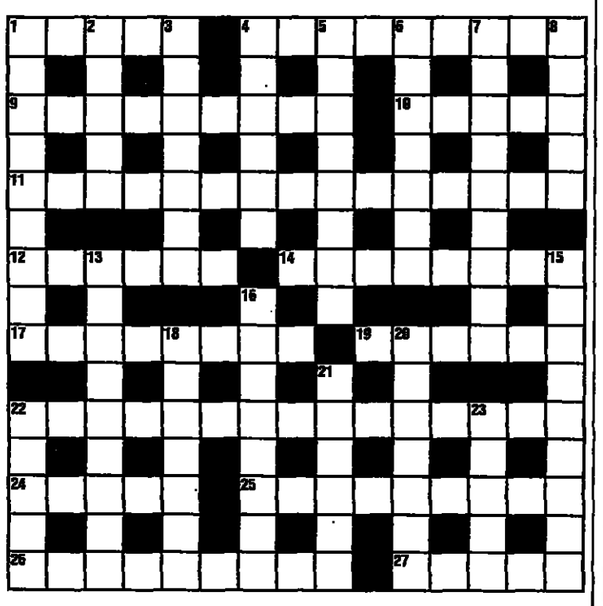
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,213

ABERLOUR

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....

.....



ACROSS

1 King wearing soldier's coat (5).
4 Convincing person one's liable to be fired (9).
9 Preoccupation with school reunion meeting? (9).
10 Canvass support, so to speak, as moderate Liberal (5).
11 Manifest envy as point in agreement gets cut by solicitor (3,4,5,3).
12 Pretty evasive about diseased elm? (6).
14 Soak head for lavish growth (8).
17 Hear on radio German is captured by Russian leader (6,2).
19 Who's organised stream? (6).
22 Hypocrite cheers up — he'd wilt otherwise (6,9).
24 Hank makes flying geese (5).
25 Gave up being depraved (9).
26 Made oneself comfortable in seat row (7,2).
27 Stick fork into first of several fruit (5).

DOWN

1 Established state of French language (9).
2 Try again to pass others — one's placed near the end (5).
3 London team succeeded in sporting venue on lake (7).
4 Spire collapsed on top of terrified vicar (6).
5 Second smuggler appearing for trial (6-2).
6 Heat urn furiously — grub up! (7).
7 Cheating pretty girl one way (9).
8 Fired again, taking money in bank hold-up (5).
13 Wrongly advise girl, not altogether straight (9).
15 Break into safe — robber's beginning to cash in (9).
16 Not the assistance to expect from one's second? (5,3).
18 As a city, Rome is always the same (7).
20 Everyone used rough hints (7).
21 Bad weather odds on? That's a wrench (6).
22 Stinging attack from this rugby side? (5).
23 Monument female, say, put up (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,207

Z	E	A	L	O	T	R	Y		F	I	L	L	I	P
A		R		B		E		R		M		O		I
N	O	B	L	E		B	L	U	E	P	E	T	E	R
E		I		A		O		B		R		U		A
G	A	T	E	H	O	U	S	E		O	N	S	E	T
R		R		N		N		V		E				
E	L	A	P	S	E	D		S	L	I	G	H	T	
Y		T		T				S		O		H		
	S	E	C	O	N	D		P	R	E	S	I	D	E
C			N		O		O		P		A			
O	C	H	R	E		M	A	T	C	H	W	O	O	D
F		A		C		A		S		E		L		A
F	O	R	T	H	W	I	T	H		L	I	L	A	C
E		E		A		N		O		L		O		H
R	E	M	O	T	E		A	T	R	O	P	I	N	E

Solution to Puzzle No 20,212

M	U	F	T	I		W	I	S	E	C	R	A	C	K
E		E		D		I		E		A		U		O
T	A	L	L	O	R	D	E	R		V	I	S	T	A
A		O		L		E		V		I		T		L
L	A	N	D	A	U		W	I	S	T	A	R	I	A
W		T		B		C		Y		A				
O	L	I	V	E	G	R	E	E	N	C	L	I	P	
R		L		R		O		M		L		I		O
K	I	L	T		P	A	L	A	T	I	N	A	T	E
		J		G		D		N		C		T		
P	R	U	D	E	N	C	E		R	E	D	S	E	A
R		D		I		L		G		N		C		S
A	E	G	I	S		O	V	E	R	S	H	O	O	T
N		E		H		T		A		F		E		
G	O	D	F	A	T	H	E	R		D	E	F	E	R

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *D Arthur, Hull; P Mayes, Whaddon, Milton Keynes; J C Silk, London; A Scott, Glasgow; D A Higgins, Teddington, Middlesex.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information. 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 4.52 am — Sun sets: 9.19 pm
Moon sets 11.52 am — Moon rises .

Last quarter tomorrow

London 9.19 pm to 4.53 am
Bristol 9.28 pm to 5.03 am
Edinburgh 9.56 pm to 4.38 am
Manchester 9.38 pm to 4.50 am
Penzance 9.33 pm to 5.21 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 4.53 am — Sun sets: 9.18 pm
Moon sets 1.06 pm — Moon rises 12.05 am

Last quarter today

London 9.18 pm to 4.54 am
Bristol 9.27 pm to 5.04 am
Edinburgh 9.57 pm to 4.39 am
Manchester 9.37 pm to 4.51 am
Penzance 9.32 pm to 5.22 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5.30	7.2	5.41	6.9
Aberdeen	4.52	4.2	5.40	4.0
Avonmouth	10.55	12.9	11.16	12.7
Belfast	2.38	3.7	3.17	3.3
Cardiff	10.39	11.4	11.03	11.3
Devonport	9.41	5.2	9.56	5.3
Dover	2.30	6.5	2.53	6.7
Dublin (N Wall)	2.59	4.2	3.46	3.8
Falmouth	8.57	4.7	9.23	5.0
Greenock	3.53	3.6	4.34	3.3
Harwich	3.22	4.1	3.38	3.8
Holyhead	1.43	5.7	2.19	5.2
Hull (Albert D)	9.47	7.6	10.30	7.0
Ilfracombe	9.44	9.0	10.09	9.0
King's Lynn	9.42	6.9	10.13	6.2
Leith	6.18	5.6	6.54	5.3
Liverpool	2.45	9.5	3.13	9.0
Lowestoft	1.10	2.4	1.03	2.8
Margate	2.40	4.8	3.48	4.7
Milford Haven	10.01	6.6	10.25	6.7
Newquay	8.46	6.4	9.10	6.5
Oban	9.15	3.4	9.48	3.5
Penzance	8.18	5.2	8.44	5.4
Portland	10.33	1.9	10.50	2.0
Portsmouth	2.49	4.7	3.25	4.7
Shoreham	2.43	6.1	3.14	6.2
Southampton	2.13	4.5	2.47	4.6
Swansea	10.06	9.1	10.30	9.1
Tees	7.23	5.4	8.05	5.1
Walton-on-Naze	3.13	4.3	3.31	4.2

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 21C (70F); lowest day max: Southport, Lancashire, 11C (52F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 0.54in; highest sunshine: Bristol 12.9hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** central and eastern England will have a dry morning with bright or sunny spells. Western areas should start with showers. During the day these will spread east to remaining parts, and some will be heavy. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will be showery. Central and eastern Scotland are likely to be showery after a bright start. Northern Scotland will be mostly cloudy with rain.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England:** dry with bright or sunny spells at first. Showers developing later, some heavy. Wind west to northwesterly light to moderate. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** dry start with bright or sunny spells, but showers soon developing, some heavy. Wind west to northwesterly mostly moderate. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** sunny spells and showers, some heavy. Wind west to northwesterly moderate, locally fresh. Max 17C (63F).

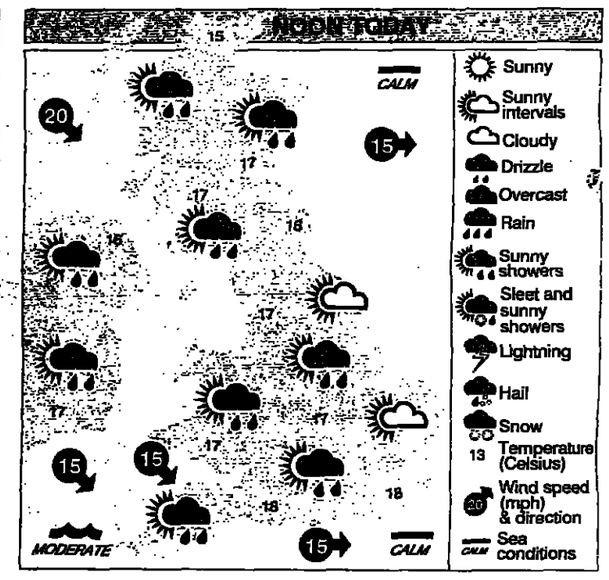
☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mostly cloudy with showery rain. Wind light to moderate west becoming northwesterly. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **NW Scotland:** cloudy with showery rain, slowly becoming brighter from the west. Wind moderate to fresh west to northwesterly. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Outlook:** sunny spells, showers.

☐ **Pollen forecast:** low in Scotland; low to moderate in London; moderate in N England, N Ireland, Midlands, E Anglia, Wales, S East, S West.

NOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN

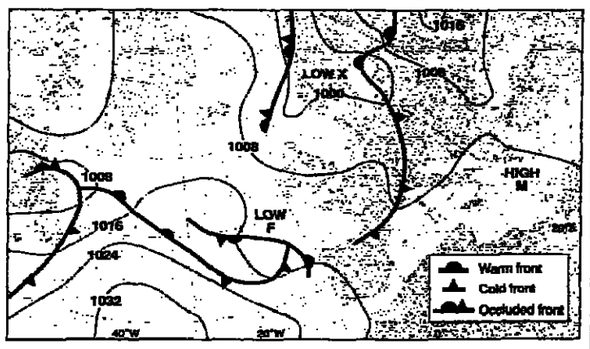
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.5	0.07	15	59	sh	London	8.5	0.20	18	64	sh
Anglesey	5.8	0.19	16	61	sh	Lowestoft	8.0	0.30	20	68	sh
Aspatria	5.7	0.23	16	61	sh	Manchester	4.0	0.17	16	61	sh
Aviemore	7.9	0.01	17	63	sh	Margate	9.7	0.07	19	66	s
Belfast	5.3	0.07	17	63	sh	Minehead	11.3	0.16	18	64	sh
Birmingham	8.6	0.01	19	66	sh	Morecambe	3.6	0.24	16	61	r
Bognor R	8.2	0.07	17	63	s	Newcastle	6.7	0.09	18	61	sh
Bournem'th	8.4	0.02	18	64	s	Newquay	8.8	0.09	18	64	s
Bristol	12.9	0.13	17	63	sh	Norwich	5.5	0.08	19	66	sh
Buxton	5.8	0.08	14	57	b	Oxford	8.4	0.04	1986		
Cardiff	X					Penzance	X	0.01	18	64	sh
Colwyn Bay	5.5	0.01	17	63	sh	Poole	8.8	0.01	21	70	s
Cromer	7.0	0.11	19	66	sh	Prestatyn	X	0.02	17	63	sh
Dunbar	5.1	0.06	15	59	sh	Ross-o-wye	7.5	0.01	17	63	b
Eastbourne	6.3	0.23	17	63	s	Ryde	7.0	0.01	18	64	s
Edinburgh	4.7	0.22	18	64	sh	Salcombe	7.1	0.01	17	63	b
Eskdalemuir	2.6	0.54	15	59	sh	Sandown	6.5	0.02	18	64	s
Exmouth	5.5	0.01	19	66	s	Saunton Snd	8.4	0.06	17	63	s
Falmouth	X					Scarboro'	12.1	0.17	16	61	s
Fishguard	8.1	-	16	61	b	Shanklin	X				
Folkestone	8.4	0.09	17	63	s	Shrewsbury	3.3	0.03	17	63	sh
Glasgow	5.7	0.23	17	63	sh	Skegness	9.4	0.01	19	66	b
Guernsey	8.7	0.23	19	66	s	Southend	-	-	18	64	sh
Hastings	7.4	0.13	17	63	s	Southport	5.4	0.04	16	61	r
Hayling I.	7.2	0.01	17	63	s	Southsea	8.2	0.01	17	63	s
Herne Bay	X					Stornoway	3.0	0.28	13	55	r
Hove	6.6	0.09	17	63	b	Swanage	7.5	0.01	17	63	s
Hunstanton	X	0.28	19	66	t	Teignmouth	6.5	0.01	19	66	b
Ilfracombe	X					Tenby	X				
Isle of Man	8.2	0.09	17	63	sh	Tiree	8.9	0.04	14	57	sh
Jersey	5.7	0.13	19	66	sh	Torquay	6.6	0.07	18	66	b
Kinloss	4.3	0.20	16	61	b	Tynemouth	X				
Leeds	8.9	0.07	17	63	sh	Ventnor	7.5	0.03	16	61	s
Lerwick	0.6	0.24	11	52	r	Weymouth	7.5	0.01	16	61	s
Leuchars	4.1	0.13	17	63	sh						
Littlehmptn	7.2	0.10	18	64	s						

ABROAD

Ajaccio	23	73	s	Corfu	31	88	s	Majorca	27	81	s	Rome	24	75	s
Akrotiri	30	86	s	C'phagn	16	61	c	Malaga	26	79	s	S Fr'isco	17	63	f
Alex'dria	30	86	s	Dublin	15	59	c	Malta	24	75	s	S Paulo	15	59	c
Algiers	29	84	s	Dubrovnik	25	77	s	Melb'rne	12	54	f	Salzburg	27	81	s
Amst'dm	17	63	f	Faro	31	88	s	Mexico C	20	68	f	Santiago	15	59	f
Athens	30	86	s	Florence	26	79	f	Miami	27	81	r	Seoul	24	75	r
B Aires	10	50	s	Frankfurt	21	70	c	Milan	26	79	s	Sing'por	29	84	f
Bahrain	39	102	s	Funchal	24	75	s	Montreal	18	64	fg	St'kholm	14	57	r
Bangkok	29	84	f	Geneva	18	64	r	Moscow	17	63	c	Strasb'rg	24	75	c
Barbados	31	88	s	Gibraltar	28	82	s	Munich	23	73	c	Sydney	16	61	s
Barcelona	28	79	c	Helsinki	18	64	s	N Delhi	35	95	s	Tangier	25	77	s
Beirut	28	82	s	Hong K	31	88	f	N York	20	68	f	Tel Aviv	33	91	s
Belgrade	25	77	f	Innsbruck	24	75	f	Nairobi	24	75	f	Tenerife	25	77	s
Berlin	21	70	f	Istanbul	28	84	s	Naples	28	82	f	Tokyo	28	82	s
Bermuda	27	81	s	Jeddah	X			Nice	23	73	s	Toronto	23	73	s
Biarritz	22	72	c	Jo'burg	X			Oslo	13	55	r	Tunis	29	84	s
Borde'x	23	73	c	L Angels	21	70	s	Paris	22	72	s	Valencia	28	82	s
Brussels	18	64	f	L Palmas	24	75	f	Peking	30	86	s	Vanc'ver	16	61	f
Budapst	24	75	s	Le Touet	17	63	f	Perth	14	57	c	Venice	23	73	s
Cairo	36	97	s	Lisbon	24	75	s	Prague	22	72	c	Vienna	25	77	s
Cape Tn	11	52	f	Locarno	22	72	s	Reykjavik	12	54	s	Warsaw	24	75	f
Ch'church	X			Luxembg	15	59	c	Rhodes	28	82	s	Wash'ton	23	73	f
Chicago	23	73	s	Luxor	45	113	s	Rio de J	21	70	f	Wel'ngton	X		
Cologne	18	64	f	Madrid	30	86	s	Riyadh	43	109	s	Zurich	22	72	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to chart above from noon. low X will stay over Scandinavia and fill very slowly; high M should drift S and decline; low F will track E quickly with little change in depth of pressure



TORONTO OR NEW YORK

BA 747 to Toronto on 11 Aug, 30 Aug or 14 Sept. ● five nights at deluxe Sheraton ● city tour ● harbour cruise ● Niagara with helicopter ● Phantom of Opera ● Concorde supersonic return to Heathrow £1,999 or £2,999 with Concorde both ways on 18 Sep.

BA 747 to New York on any day ● four nights at Sheraton ● Concorde supersonic return to Heathrow £1,999

BA 747 New York on 31 Aug ● three nights ● Concorde supersonic to Toronto ● four nights ● city tours and cruises ● Niagara with helicopter ● 747 to Heathrow £1,999

BA 747 from Heathrow to New York on 31 Aug. ● three nights at Sheraton ● tours by helicopter, yacht and coach ● Concorde supersonic to Toronto ● Sheraton overnight ● city tour ● CN Tower dinner ● Concorde return £1,999

QE2 AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton ● QE2 cruise to Spain and Portugal on 10 Sept. (6 nights) or 26 Oct (5 nights) ● Concorde supersonic from Lisbon from £1,699

Concorde to Lisbon on 16 Sept ● two night QE2 cruise to Southampton ● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,099

Orient-Express from Victoria to Southampton on 13 Nov ● four night QE2 cruise to Tenerife via Madeira ● Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,599

MARRAKECH & CASABLANCA

Fly to Casablanca on Fri, 26 July ● three nights at Holiday Inn ● day excursion by air to Marrakech ● city tours ● Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £799

ORIANA AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 22 July ● four night Oriana cruise via Madeira ● four nights in Tenerife £999

Concorde supersonic to Nice on 6 Sept. ● seven night Oriana cruise from Monte-Carlo to Southampton via Sete, Ibiza and Praia da Rocha ● Orient-Express return £1,999

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